SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION UNDER EVER CHANGING GLOBAL EVENTS

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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PUBLISHED BY
ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
AMMAN - JORDAN
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
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Prof. Adnan Badran is the Chancellor of the University of Petra and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Jordan. He is a biologist with over 166 papers presented, and 46 books, 64 research papers published and 4 patents. Badran was Prime Minister (2005), Minister of Agriculture (1989) and Minister of Education (1989) in Jordan. He was Senator and Chair of the Senate Committee on Science, Education and Culture (2006-2010). He also served as Deputy Director-General of UNESCO (1994-1998) and Assistant Director General for Science, Paris (1990-1994). Founding President of Yarmouk University and Jordan University of Science and Technology (1976-1986), President of Philadelphia University (1998-2005) and President of University of Petra (2007-2014), and Dean of the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Jordan (1971-1976). Secretary General (1986-1987) and Vice-president (2014- ) of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, Jordan. President of the National Centre of Human Rights, Jordan (2008-2011) and President of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Human Rights, Sidney (2009-2011). Member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Thought Forum (2012- ). He is a Fellow and former Vice-president of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), Fellow of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) and President of the Arab Academy of Sciences. Chairman of the Board of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development in Beirut (2008- ). President of the Higher Council of the National Centre for Curriculum development (2017-2019) and Chairman of Shoman Trust Fund for Research (2019- ). Member of the Board of Trustees of the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Award for Innovation (2020-). Member of the selection committee of Al-Hassan bin Talal Award for Scientific Excellence (2021- ). Member of the Board of Trustees of the annual award in the name of Prince Muhammad Bin Fahd University for the best scientific production (Association of Arab Universities 2022- ), President of Islamic World Academy of Sciences (2022-), and Vice President of Arab Peace Group (2022-).

Najwa F. Daghestani is currently the Programs Manager at the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS). She earned her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the German Jordanian University, Jordan, and her BSc in Computer Science from Princess Sumayya University, Jordan.

She works on organizing conferences and workshops, editing proceedings, newsletters and various papers and documents and acts as a liaison with international and national organizations and institutions.

She previously worked at the Royal Scientific Society as an Applications Programmer.
The Organization of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) was founded in 1969 as an organization grouping Islamic countries. In 1981, the heads of state of the OIC decided to establish a number of specialized organs to enhance co-operation between the OIC-Member countries in the fields of culture, trade and science and technology. The science and technology role was assigned to the Islamabad-based COMSTECH; the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation. In 1984, the heads of state of the OIC approved the launch of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) as an independent autonomous S&T Think Tank of the OIC to be based in Amman, Jordan. Of the issues that the IAS has been concerned with since its launch has been bridging the divide that has historically existed between the science community and the decision-making community in OIC-Member countries. Moreover, as an advocate for science, the IAS has always viewed science and technology – including the history of science – as an enterprise that can contribute to bridging divides between cultures and civilizations and has established itself as an active and vibrant player in the domain of science and technology promoting the values of science across the Islamic world. It executes its mission through programs that emphasize knowledge sharing, networking and capacity building, while also sustaining stakeholder engagement. In this respect, the Academy advocates the scientific community’s points of view in all facets of developmental processes. Its contribution is communicated to decision-making bodies at OIC, national or international levels. Among its many objectives, the IAS strives to fulfill its mission through many activities and initiatives such as conferences, webinars and workshops.

Under the High patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco the IAS convened its 23rd international scientific Conference in Rabat, Morocco during 18-19 October 2022 in collaboration with Hassan II Academy for Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco. The title of the conference was Science, Technology and Innovation Under Ever Changing Global Events.

The conference was held at the headquarters of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco and was attended by Fellows of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, as well as world-renowned lecturers and experts.

This publication includes the majority of the papers that were presented at the conference that aimed to address several topics, including new diagnostic approaches to cancer treatment, bionanotechnologies used in agriculture, and water resource management. The participants in this two-day conference also discussed education
issues after the Corona pandemic, energy security, the vaccine industry in OIC countries and the role of antioxidants in promoting health.

Around 90 participants attended the conference including IAS Fellows, invited speakers, academics, decision-makers, scientists, researchers as well as presidents/representatives of academies of sciences from different countries in the world.

Adnan Badran
Najwa F. Daghestani
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) is grateful to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco for his high patronage and support of the conference.

We thank Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco for hosting the conference and for their grand hospitality, organization, and attention to all the details.

We would also like to thank all the organizations that have sponsored the conference including The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Amman, Jordan; Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Kuwait and the OIC Standing Ministerial Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation (COMSTECH), Islamabad, Pakistan.

The dedicated staff of the IAS in Amman including Ms. Taghreed Saqer, all deserve our thanks and appreciation.

Adnan Badran
Najwa Daghestani
The nascent idea of establishing the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) first appeared in the plan of action developed by the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC). Upon the invitation of Jordan, the Founding Conference of the Academy was held in Amman (Jordan) in October 1986. IAS came into being as an independent, non-political, non-governmental and non-profit organization of distinguished scientists dedicated to the promotion of all aspects of science and technology in the Islamic world.

The IAS seeks to act as functional platform for improving, facilitating and nurturing interaction, collaboration, networking and enhancing knowledge sharing in a bet to address pressing challenges facing socio-economic development in OIC member states.

The IAS aspires to avail its capacity and capability to serve as Islamic Brain Think Tank and to respond effectively and timely to current and futuristic needs for advancing and promoting developmental goals and objectives to realize aspirations of the Ummah.

Main objectives of the Academy are:
1. Enabling inter-Islamic world connections among scientists and academies to advance STI.
2. Acting as legitimate, scientifically-based voice for the cause of STI on behalf of scientists in the Islamic World.
3. Promoting the development of ecosystem that nurtures science and values education and research as a vehicle for socioeconomic transformation in the Islamic World.
4. Providing science-informed advice and recommendations through its various activities to local, regional and international levels.
According to the wishes of His Majesty the King Hassan II, blessed be his soul, the Hassan-II Academy of Science and Technology is a place of high thinking, where men and women whose talent, enlightenment and wisdom have earned them a prominent standing within the international scientific community work to foster moral serenity in society and to achieve the material prosperity of the nation as well as its intellectual advancement by pondering on how to provide mankind with enlightenment and guidance in its effort to usher in a new era. The Academy Hassan II of Science and technology was founded by His Majesty the King, Mohammed VI, on May 18th, 2006. The fact that mastering sciences is nowadays an essential complement to national sovereignty, the Academy lies within a strong conviction that: I) creativity and innovation in science and technology have a significant impact on social and economic developments in modern nations; II) the scientific research policies have to be reshaped and attuned to human needs, and their technical applications have to be kept within overriding ethical boundaries. Placed under the guardian protection of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, the Hassan-II Academy of Science and Technology has the mission of promoting and developing the scientific and technical research, contributing at setting the general orientations for the scientific and technological development, making pertinent recommendations regarding the national priorities in terms of research, evaluating the research programs and ensuring their grants and contributing at integrating the Moroccan scientific and technical research activities within the national and international socio-economical environments. The academy is composed of 90 members. 30 of them are national members holding resident status, 30 are foreigners’ scientists and are qualified as associates and 30 corresponding members composed by both national and foreigner scientific personalities.

The Academy’s motto is “To serve the country and contribute to the advancement of universal science” which is extracted from the inaugural speech of the installation of the Academy on May 18th, 2006, by His Majesty the King, Mohammed VI Tutor of the Academy.
The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST)  
Amman – Jordan  
[www.hcst.gov.jo](http://www.hcst.gov.jo)

The Higher Council for Science and Technology was established in 1987 as a public independent institution and acts as a national umbrella for all science & technology (S&T) activities in Jordan.

The objective of the Higher Council is to build a national science and technology base to contribute to the achievement of development goals, through increasing awareness of the significance of scientific research and development, granting the necessary funding and directing scientific and research activities, within national priorities, in line with development orientations.

The Higher Council was also entrusted with the establishment of specialized centers for R&D activities, the support of innovation and entrepreneurship to contribute to commercialize scientific and technological ideas into products and businesses, the conclusion of agreements relating to cooperation with Arab, regional and international parties, the representation of the Kingdom in scientific and technological activities, at the Arab, regional and international levels.

The Higher Council is chaired by HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal, who has been instrumental to the progress of science and technology in Jordan from the beginning.
The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), a private non-profit organization, continues on its 40-year journey to harness science, technology and innovation in Kuwait, as well as to promote modernization, a better quality of life and a sustainable future for the Kuwaiti people. In line with the long-term vision of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah and supported by leaders in the private sector, an Amiri Decree was issued in 1976 for the establishment of the Foundation, with a focus on advancing and integrating science, technology and innovation (STI) throughout the country.

The Foundation’s efforts toward fostering STI to address national challenges first began through the pledge made by the private sector shareholding companies to fund the Foundation based on a set percentage of their annual profits — currently at one percent — as well as through the incorporation of a unique governance modality, in which the Board of Directors is chaired and appointed by the Amir of the State of Kuwait. Today, KFAS’s impact is prominently embedded within the country’s scientific and technological accomplishments and advancements.
COMSTECH the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) was established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia in January 1981. The President of Pakistan is Chairman of COMSTECH. The core mandate of COMSTECH is to strengthen cooperation among OIC Member States in science and technology (S&T), and enhance their capabilities through training in emerging areas, undertake follow-up-actions and implementation of the resolutions of the OIC, and to draw up programs and submit proposals designed to increase the capability of the Muslim countries in science and technology (S&T). The ultimate aim is to build and nourish a scientific culture in addition to using S&T as a major contributor to socio-economic development and rapid industrialization.

The objectives of COMSTECH include

1. Assessment of human and material resources of Member States and identification of scientific and technological needs and requirements of the Ummah,
2. Building indigenous capabilities of Member States in the fields of science and technology through cooperation and mutual assistance,
3. Enhancement of cooperation and coordination in scientific and technological fields amongst the OIC member states with a view to achieving collective competence in science and technology for solution of the problems of the OIC member states,
4. Creation of an effective institutional structure for planning, research, development and monitoring of scientific and technological activities at national, regional, and international levels.

COMSTECH works in close collaboration with various Standing Committees and other organs of the OIC, Member States of the OIC and their major Scientific and Technological Institutions, in addition to some international organizations. The latter include The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), International Foundation for Science, Stockholm (IFS), Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO–EMRO). In addition, protocols are being prepared for collaboration with the Lindau Council and IIASA in the EU.
23rd Islamic World Academy of Sciences Conference

on

“Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Under Ever Changing Global Events.”

Conference Declaration

Adopted at Rabat, Morocco

on

19 October 2022

Firstly, the Islamic World Academy of Sciences and the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology extend their appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammad VI of the Kingdom of Morocco for his patronage of the 23rd IAS scientific conference. A letter of appreciation and gratitude will be dispatched to His Majesty for patronizing the conference on behalf of the conference participants.

1) Whereas Islamic teachings and values encourage pursuit of knowledge and upheld it as an obligation for Muslims.
2) Whereas knowledge is assimilated from data generated from observation and research output.
3) Whereas research and development output could flourish and generate technology and incite innovation under viable science, technology and innovation (STI) ecosystem.
4) Whereas STI is a major instrument capable of inducing positive change on social well-being augmenting human, environmental and economical dimensions.
5) Whereas most of OIC member states do not have delineated STI framework and agenda to consolidate their scientific base contribution to development efforts.
6) Whereas OIC member states in their declared vision 1441 recognized the importance of education, science and technology as a vehicle for socio-economic transformation. A stance that had been reiterated in the 2021 OIC Summit Conference.
7) Whereas the adoption of STI policy and implementing articulated action plan within sound environmental context or activation of these instruments can increase productivity and sustain ecosystem ability to provide vital provisional, aesthetic and regulatory services.
8) Whereas freely accessible data of research output, production practices and inputs across the food supply chain can help in networking, symmetry of information dissemination, job creation and sustainable production.

9) Whereas OIC member states and humanity in general are faced with cross-border challenges in food and health security, climate change and biodiversity loss.

10) Whereas OIC member states exhibit variable levels in STI capacity and capability.

11) Whereas the sudden emergence of COVID 19 presents harsh realities specially with regard to disparity in vaccine roll-out between developed and developing countries due to insufficient vaccine supply or inadequate financial resource at the disposition of most developing countries.

We the Fellows of the IAS and participants in the IAS 23rd Conference entitled “Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Under Ever Changing Global Events” held in Rabat during 18-19 October 2022 in partnership with Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology herein:

1) Call for OIC member states to introduce into their educational curricula principles of critical thinking that can nurture curiosity.

2) Urge our governments to increase allocations for research funding in their annual budget to arrive to tangible ratio of at least 1% of their GDP.

3) Urge OIC member states with no STI policy to draft such a policy that can identify national priorities, and orchestrate physical, human and financial resources as part of a master developmental plan.

4) Urge OIC governments to enact legislation outlining STI management structure supported by advisory body and empowered to perform its duties that can coordinate, streamline national resources and support to sustain research output and achieve smooth transition from research into technology and innovation into commercialization.

5) We emphasize the importance of creating and adopting an effective functional STI ecosystem that sustains and improves human resource, research and educational institutions, establishes science parks and incubators and provides funding. Of particular importance, the system should induce networking and outreach activities that aim at creating a vibrant scientific community.

6) Acknowledge the vital role the private sector can play in the transition pathway from research to commercialization. Governments are to entice and incentivize its involvement and participation in the process.

7) Emphasize the importance of government commitment to improve education system, provide pertinent infrastructure and build capacity and enhance capability of their country’s STI domain.

8) We call for OIC Secretariat to form intergovernmental scientific panels to deal with cross-border challenges of interest to OIC member states and humanity in general.
9) We call for OIC member states to adopt a framework enabling mobility of science across member states. Such mobility schemes will facilitate knowledge sharing, networking and technology transfer. In this context, we commend COMSTECH and IAS for their joint initiative that intends to provide small mobility grant that enable scientists from least developed countries to do research in predetermined centers of excellence in the Muslim world.

10) Acknowledge that the OIC member states collectively have scientific, financial and economy of scale, we call upon them to embark on establishing a joint enterprise for developing and manufacturing vaccines for recurrent and emerging diseases.

LASTLY, THE ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IAS):

Extends its appreciation and gratitude to all organizations and institutes the extended sponsorship for this conference, these are; Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology (Morocco), Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) (Kuwait), Higher Council for Sciences and Technology (HCST) (Jordan) and OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) (Pakistan).
Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, the IAS convened its 23rd international scientific conference in Rabat, Morocco during 18-19 October 2022 in collaboration with Hassan II Academy for Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco. The theme of the conference was Science, Technology and Innovation Under Ever Changing Global Events.

The venue of the conference was the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Rabat. The IAS Conference was an open activity in which around 100 local and international participants attended from 15 countries. Among the participants were Fellows of the IAS and local scientists from various universities and institutions. After the conference, the 24th meeting of the General Assembly of the IAS as well as the 44th meeting of the IAS Council were convened.

The conference was co-sponsored by; The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Amman, Jordan; Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Kuwait; and OIC Standing Ministerial Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation (COMSTech), Islamabad, Pakistan.

The inaugural ceremony of the conference included an address by Prof. Omar Fassi-Fehri, Permanent Secretary, Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco; who expressed his pleasure for the presence of eminent professors who came from different regions and from all scientific disciplines to exchange views and to share their knowledge that will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. Prof. Fassi-Fehri highlighted that, in light of the accelerating transformations the world is experiencing, mastery of science, technology and innovation has become one of the most important elements of the economy and cultural power of nations and peoples, and an essential bet for exercising effective sovereignty at the level of societal choices.

Following was the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, Mr. Abdellatif Mirawi, who said that this world, which is going through multi-dimensional crises, is the scene of devastating transformations that question our abilities to anticipate and adapt, both of which are necessary to secure
development paths in our countries. He also pointed out that this changing context clearly highlights the central role of science and technology as powerful levers to enhance the resilience of our economies and societies, by shaping the foundations of sovereignty in a plurality of vital areas, such as health, water, food security and energy.

A message from HE Prof. Abdel Salam Majali, President, IAS, Jordan was delivered by Prof. Abdullah Al Musa, Director General, IAS where he highlighted that the changes that will be the focus of the discussions of this conference are very clear and focus on a number of topics of interest to societies in the Arab-Islamic region.

The message of the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, IAS Patron was delivered by HE Prof. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Pakistan, who joined the conference virtually via ZOOM. He stressed the importance of cooperation in the development of Islamic societies, pointing out that good cooperation in scientific and technological fields would enhance the living framework of citizens. He also expressed his desire for this conference to culminate with recommendations that would have an impact on the lives of citizens of Islamic countries.

His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, Founding Patron of the IAS sent a message to address the conference participants and was delivered by HE Prof. Adnan Badran, Treasurer, IAS. In his message, HRH pointed to the most important challenges facing humanity according to the World Economic Forum 2021 in the next decade; Human-induced environmental damage including loss of biodiversity and spread of infectious virus, Poverty, human displacement and widening gap between rich and poor, Cyber security and Digital inequality. These issues were considered the most pressing issues. Prince El-Hassan emphasized the importance of responsibility and participatory approach in governance across different societal institutions and organizations. HRH also upholds the Paris Agreement to reduce CO2 emissions but unfortunately, its targets seemed to be out of reach as indicated by research and studies presented in COP26.

The inaugural session concluded with a recorded message from Sir Peter Gluckman, President of the International Science Council (ISC).

After the inaugural session, newly elected IAS Fellows were inducted.

The first academic session of the conference included keynote presentations starting with a presentation by Prof. Bulent Aydogan, Associate Professor and Director of Medical Physics at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, USA entitled Novel Theragnostic Approaches for Personalized Cancer Care; a presentation by Prof. Irfan Ahmad, Executive Director for Interdisciplinary Initiatives at the Grainger College of Engineering; and Executive Director for the Health Maker Lab
at the Carle Illinois College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA on *Bionanotechnology toward Environment-friendly Agriculture*, followed by a presentation by **Prof. Munir Nayfeh** FIAS, Professor, Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA on *Energy Security between Nuclear, Renewable and Nanotechnologies*. The keynote session was concluded with a presentation on *Bricklaying at Nanoscale* by **Prof. Mostapha Bousmina**, President, Euromed University of Fes and Chancellor, Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco.

The second working session of the conference included two presentations; *Water for Development and Development for Water: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Vision* by **Prof. Mohamed Aït Kadi**, President of the General Council of Agricultural Development and Resident Member of Academy Hassan II of Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco, and a presentation by **Prof. Adnan Badran** FIAS, Chancellor of the University of Petra and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Jordan, on *Post-COVID Higher Education: Lessons from a Pandemic.*

The last session started with a presentation by **Prof. Abdullah Al Musa**, Director General, Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), Jordan, on *Joint Vaccines Development and Manufacturing Potential in OIC Countries* followed by a presentation by **Prof. Elmostafa El Fahime**, Professor at National Center for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST) and Head of Functional Genomic platform, Rabat, Morocco on *Genomic Surveillance of SARS-CoV2 in Morocco: A Major Component of the Integrative Approach Adopted by the Hassan 2 Academy of Sciences and Techniques to Support Biomedical Research on COVID-19*. **Prof. Mohammad Abdollahi** FIAS, Faculty of Pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center (PSRC), Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran, through a prerecorded video presented a paper on *On the Epigenetics as a Toxicological Mechanism Causing Human Degenerative Diseases.* Last in the session, **Prof. Ali A. Moosavi-Movahedi** FIAS, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Tehran, Iran joined virtually via ZOOM and presented a paper on *The Role of Antioxidants and Nutraceuticals in Promotion of Lifestyle and Health.*

At the conclusion of the Conference, Prof. Hamza Kettani made some closing remarks and read the adopted IAS 2022 Rabat Declaration on *Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Under Ever Changing Global Events.*

The declaration of the conference (approved by the Fellows of the IAS and participants in the IAS 23rd Conference) called for OIC member states to introduce into their educational curricula principles of critical thinking that can nurture curiosity.

Urged governments to increase allocations for research funding in their annual budget to arrive to a tangible ratio of at least 1% of their GDP.
Urged OIC member states with no STI policy to draft such a policy that can identify national priorities, and orchestrate physical, human and financial resources as part of a master developmental plan.

Urged OIC governments to enact legislation outlining STI management structure supported by an advisory body and empowered to perform its duties that can coordinate, streamline national resources and support to sustain research output and achieve a smooth transition from research into technology and innovation into commercialization.

Emphasized the importance of creating and adopting an effective functional STI ecosystem that sustains and improves human resource, research and educational institutions, establishes science parks and incubators and provides funding. Of particular importance, the system should induce networking and outreach activities that aim at creating a vibrant scientific community.

Acknowledged the vital role the private sector can play in the transition pathway from research to commercialization. Governments are to entice and incentivize their involvement and participation in the process.

Emphasized the importance of government commitment to improve the education system, provide pertinent infrastructure and build capacity and enhance the capability of their country's STI domain.

Called for OIC Secretariat to form intergovernmental scientific panels to deal with cross-border challenges of interest to OIC member states and humanity in general.

Called for OIC member states to adopt a framework enabling mobility of science across member states. Such mobility schemes will facilitate knowledge sharing, networking and technology transfer. In this context, COMSTECH and IAS were commended for their joint initiative that intends to provide small mobility grants that enable scientists from least developed countries to do research in predetermined centers of excellence in the Muslim world.

Acknowledged that the OIC member states collectively have scientific, financial and economy of scale, we call upon them to embark on establishing a joint enterprise for developing and manufacturing vaccines for recurrent and emerging diseases.

**Lastly, the IAS through its declaration** extended its appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco for his patronage of the 23rd IAS scientific conference and to all organizations and institutions that extended sponsorship for this conference, these are; Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Morocco, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science
(KFAS), Kuwait, Higher Council for Sciences and Technology (HCST), Jordan and OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC), Pakistan.

As part of the follow-up action to the conference, the Academy will circulate the IAS 2022 Rabat Declaration to concerned individuals and relevant agencies throughout OIC and developing countries, so that measures are taken to put into action the ideas proposed at the conference.

The presentations delivered at this conference are published on YouTube; https://www.youtube.com/@academiehassaniidesscience2443/streams

The IAS will also publish the complete proceedings of the conference online and will be distributed internationally.
MESSAGE* OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY PROF. ABDUL SALAM MAJALI FIAS  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IAS)  

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته، و بعد،،،

Your Excellency Mr. Abdellatif Miraoui, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation  

Prof. Omar Fassi-Fehri, Permanent Secretary, Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology  

Fellows of the IAS  

Members of the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology  

Excellencies  

Ladies and Gentlemen  

Dear friends  

It is my pleasure and indeed a privilege to welcome you all this morning and to greet you and communicate my deep appreciation for your interest in this conference which hopefully will outline the Science, Technology and Innovation under Ever Changing Global Events.  

Science, technology and innovation is of paramount importance in driving socioeconomic development for our nations. For this trio to be effective, a total national STI capacity trifecta should be achieved namely: a government commitment to providing STI physical and soft infrastructure, a vibrant, ethical scientific community with enabled and efficient governance, and a private sector capable and willing to invest in product development.  

* Presented by Dr. Abdullah Al Musa, Director General, Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), Rabat - Morocco, 18 October 2022.
The efficacy of this STI ecosystem is dependent on the intricate and smooth interactions among all stakeholders in the state and a functional international outreach. An effort that should be culminated in a solid STI policy entailing an action plan to galvanize the efforts and delineate priorities.

The Islamic World of Sciences (IAS) is holding its 23 conference to provide a platform for fruitful discussions and deliberations and enhance networking and exchange of STI experience in OIC Countries, especially with regard to proper governance, partnership framework that accommodate all STI Stakeholders.

We at the IAS are grateful and honored to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for patronizing the IAS 23rd Scientific Conference in Rabat.

I take this opportunity to extend appreciation and gratitude to Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology for hosting and organizing this conference and to all organizations, institutions that extend or pledged sponsorship for this conference including Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), the Higher Council for Sciences and Technology (HCST), The Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (COMSTECH), and Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS).

Thanks are also extended to the speakers who did spare no effort to put forward their contributions in this scientific activity.

Thank you
Message from Dr Arif Alvi
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On the occasion of the 23rd International Scientific Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)

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It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC) and the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) are organizing the 23rd International Scientific Conference on the rapidly changing ecosystem of Science Technology and Innovation (STI) at the global scale. The exponential nature of changes happening in this field has put tremendous pressure on governments and society everywhere. All these developments are profoundly affecting our collective as well as our personal lives and pose multifarious challenges for governments, academia, and industry. I am glad that IAS is organizing this conference to deliberate on the implications of these rapid changes, devise mechanisms and come up with recommendations for the leadership of the Muslim Ummah to effectively harness the potential of science and technology for the benefit of the entire Muslim Ummah.

I note with great satisfaction that COMSTEC, after careful consideration, has figured out that the solution to this issue is to set aside a minimum level of resources by the member states to spur the development of STI in Islamic countries and to have a permanent set up within the OIC system to effectively deal with the rapidly changing scenario of STI. COMSTEC has rightly conceived the idea of the Science Technology and Innovation Organization (STIO) to contemplate the ever-changing frontiers of STI development. Its core concept is “member states, money for member states, development of STI infrastructure”. I am glad that eighteen founding member states joined the STIO and four member states made a commitment to contribute USD 20 million to make it operational. I would urge the Fellows of the IAS to deliberate on its revival strategy and formulate recommendations for making it functional. Another important suggestion from COMSTEC was the creation of a Pan-Islamic Fund to strongly push the agenda of STI forward to make meaningful progress under the current circumstances.

Both these concepts require the establishment of a body to regularly meet, analyze and set directions in the rapidly changing environment of the STI infrastructure development of the OIC countries. Fortunately, Kazakhstan has already proposed the formation of such a body under the name “OIC-15”. The Fellows may also look into it during this meeting and propose a set of rules to make it operational.

In the end, I would also like to wish unbound success to your deliberations and wholeheartedly thank His Majesty King Mahammad VI of Morocco for his patronage, and to His Majesty’s government for hosting the 23rd International Scientific Conference of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences in Rabat.

***
STI for Digital Transformation Toward Sustainable Human Development in an Ever-Changing World¹

Statement by
His Royal Highness Prince El-Hasan bin Talal
at the
23rd Conference of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS)
“Science, Technology and Innovation Under the Changing Global Events”
18-19 October 2022
Rabat-Morocco

My thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco for his high patronage of this conference.

May I thank the Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology for organizing this conference.

Also, I wish to thank sponsors: the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in Jordan, The Kuwait Foundation for the advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the OIC and COMSTECH in Islamabad.

According to the World Economic Forum 2021, Humanity is facing the following risks in the next decade:

1. Human-induced environmental damage including loss of biodiversity and spread of infectious virus.
2. Poverty, human displacement and widening gap between rich and poor, 1% of the world population has 50% of world wealth.
3. Cyber security.
4. Digital inequality.

These risks create further challenge in an ever-changing world by 2050, of food security, water scarcity, biodiversity, energy, environmental imbalance and degradation, and human health.
We’re facing globally, natural disasters and climate change and turmoil of man-made disasters. By 2050, we have to feed 9 billion people with 60% increase of access to food. The question here, can our planet resources carry out such responsibility. Do we have the space for sustainable environment?

¹ Presented by Prof. Adnan Badran, Treasurer, IAS.
Talking about responsibility, it was Edward Gibbon, who once said that Athenians called for all forms of freedom, but when Athenians chose freedom from responsibility, Athenians ceased to be free.

Developing critical thinking and logics among the free in our learning institutions to educate the Liber to share responsibility and participatory in governance and private sectors and civil society have to meet the challenges to future crisis, to give solutions that matters, to save humanity on our planet and develop a culture of peace and coexistence among all.

I do not represent government, nor do I do business, but being an NGO “humane” I was associated in 1988 with independent commission on International Humanitarian Issues in calling on the UN general assembly for the New International Humanitarian Order and I thanked Sweden for appealing for the creation of Fundamental Rights of Humanity. In Dennis Meadow, the club of Rome which I was associated with, thirty years update of limits to Growth, we were told that humanity today is burdening the “carrying capacity” of Mother Earth by the factor of 1.2. Also, 85% of consumption and depletion of natural capital is caused by the “rich minority” of the 20% of the world population.

Climate change (Paris agreement and COP26) is a serious threat to our planet which may cause of 1 billion refugees leaving their livelihood by 2050, and malnutrition of 2 billion people.

Global energy demand is expected to increase 56%. Nowadays, we see countries are back to burning coal to meet their energy crisis, because of conflicts affecting the chain of energy supplies. So, reducing emission targets of the Paris agreement is already evaporating. Soil, the world largest carbon-sink due to climate heterotopic change is becoming an emitter of carbon due to respiration. So, we are witnessing frequent hurricanes, flood, tornados, heat waves and droughts affecting millions to become homeless. Science, technology and innovation, (STI) are crucial in decarbonizing the economy and removing excess CO2 from the atmosphere.

When Al Gore and I, together with five others received the UNEP prize, Al Gore spoke of global warming and I spoke of human warning. The problem is not with the imprisonment of heat but in the imprisonment of thought.

The crisis today in our region is the sectarian fragmentation, unemployment and conflict, between the rich and the poor.

The challenge for us today, do we meet the SDGs (the UN sustainable development goals) by 2030 and leave our conflicts and differences aside, to cooperate and share on our global commons: world hunger, access to clean water, economic deprivation, resource depletion, species loss, global warming, pollution, cross-cultural conflicts, terrorism, weapons trading, conflicts and wars.
The report on “winning the human race” is a global common of how to put human well-being at the center of our policy-making. I always ask “In the modern economic, social and political environment, is it possible for human beings to become more humane”. How we strike a balance in the framework of globalization for a social civil contract vs economic development contract.

At this juncture, how STI, would become the main driving force in achieving the SDGs 17.

It is becoming clear, that the specific goals, we are pursuing—whether they involve food, water, clean air, environmental protection, energy, free flow of information, human rights, indigenous people rights, or other social concern are essentially global common goods, which cannot be allocated optimally as long as they remain enclosed, overused, or degraded.

People around the world are realizing that our common goods is not a matter of sovereign claims or private ownership, but a matter of survival. Our common resources should sustain local population and ensure human security.

Therefore, the challenge is not whether the SDGs are realistic targets but the challenge is whether the public-private framework itself is the most realistic way of meeting the SDGs.

It should be no surprise, them, that national expenditures for global common goods are not at the level needed to meet our SDG targets by 2030. I would like at the UN to see a synergy between a regional ECOSOC, to think and act, regionally and globally.

We need urgently, to enter a new era of multilateralism by building a cooperative framework across borders for the governance of our commons, where most of the SDG will ultimately be realized.

At the 36th session of the UN assembly in 1981, I stated that an examination of the current world situation clearly demonstrates a divergence between the commonly shared aspiration for a world ruled by peace and justice and the existing reality, where power rules and the politics of “fait accompli” dominate. The world clearly needs new ways of thinking about old problems. I do hope that we foresee the SDGs as a mean to end our global problems, rather than an end in themselves.

Dear colleagues, Fellows of the academy.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are crucial for managing our natural resources and building our human capital of rich human resources, and move forward into the digital economy, for self-reliance and a sustainable productive quality of life for
all citizens. The Islamic world needs to join forces in building peace and justice, and create an inducing environment for releasing the potential of the minds of men and women for enquiry and research oriented to solve our problems and diversify our industry, and increase productivity and convert scientific research toward technology, innovation and startups companies, to generate jobs and wealth. The gap between academia and industry is widening. We have to bridge the gap between teaching, training, research with academia for economic and social development. The ivory tower of university concept is no more acceptable. We have to bridge higher education and research delivery with the marketplace, and with the needs of the community.

Where do we start:

1st from education: we start from early childhood to build an enquiry-based education to develop the mind of logics, the analytical mind who is able to investigate, analyze and solve problems. This is where we plant the seeds of building ethics, thinking skills, and creativity. Teaching less but learning more. This is where we create smart schools and induce, love to teamwork, and learning how to live with others and respect other values and traditions and appreciate other cultures and diversity.

2nd we have to modernize our overall education to develop thinking skills, for new knowledge to meet the emerging needs of an-everchanging world. We have to reeducate our teachers through life-long education, out-service and in-service training, and the use of modern packages of smart materials to upgrade technical training. We have to divert our schools and class-rooms from to modern learning sites, environmentally friendly campus.

3rd our universities should adapt quickly to fast changing world with new demands in providing frontier areas of disciplines, and interdisciplins to be able to deliver graduates, to meet the challenges of climate change, water scarcity, energy, food security, artificial intelligence (AI), digital economy, health care, unemployment and poverty, and modern infrastructure. Universities have to be resilient and flexible in teaching and research to undertake a change. Our campuses should be an inviting place for learners. Our method of teaching should shift to blended learning, to produce the critical thinkers and problem-solvers.

Research should not end up only in peer-reviewed journals. This is not enough. Research outputs should be incubated to new technology and innovation. Therefore, incubators should be provided in departments and faculties, to turn research outputs, into business science parks for startup companies.

Universities and research centers should be pioneers in graduating startups, in addition to graduating students. This way we will lead in the Islamic world in building innovation
and entrepreneurship by translating knowledge into business to produce employment and wealth.

For South-South scientific cooperation, we should try to create a network among higher learning institutions in the Islamic world to cooperate in research and exchange of knowledge and information.

In addition of bridging our higher learning institutions and research centers, we should bridge it also, with industry, to close the gap between academia and society.

At the end, I wish to add little humor to you fellows as scientists of the academy.

A Princeton plasma physicist, at a sandbeach, discovers an ancient oil lantern (Aladdin lamp), he started to rub it clean, when a giant genie pops out, the genie granted the physicist one wish to realize, the physicist runs to his car, brining the map of the world and circles the Middle East, asking the genie to bring peace to the region, the genie looked “oh, Gee, this is so much complexed issue there, with Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, Iran, the Israel-Palestinian conflict and others”, then the genie asked the physicist “could you have please, another wish”. “Ok fine”, said the physicist, my other wish is that the “Princeton Tokamak when would achieve scientific fusion energy breaking”, after few minutes of silence, the genie asked the physicist “Sir, could I see the map again.”

If the wish was given to me, I will ask the genie “can we create a fusion of ideas to serve human dignity”.

Thank you, Fellow members, thank you ladies and gentlemen.
NOVEL THERAGNOSTIC APPROACHES FOR PERSONALIZED CANCER CARE

BULENT AYDOGAN
Associate Professor, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine Radiation and Cellular Oncology
University of Chicago, USA

ABSTRACT

Despite extraordinary advances in medicine and cancer therapy, the number of cancer cases continue to surge, making it one of the top leading causes of death across the world. As a result, early detection is one of the key aspects in our battle against this disease. Screening and early diagnosis play a crucial role for effective treatment and to lower the cancer mortality rate. Cancer nanotechnology is a relatively recent advance in science that provides a new hope in our fight against cancer. This novel approach aims to integrate the advancements made in the fabrication of nanoscale devices with cellular and molecular components associated with cancer diagnosis and therapy. Understanding these new technologies ad challenges is crucial to translate these approaches from bench to bed and integrate in clinical settings. Recent advance has facilitated the conjugation of nanoscale devices with agents such as tumor-specific ligands, antibodies, imaging probes and therapeutic opportunities. Coupling nanoparticles with targeting molecules enables an efficient interaction between biological systems with extraordinary accuracy. The development and progress associated with nanoscale devices with regard to theragnostic applications will be discussed with two examples from my lab including 1) patented deoxyglucose conjugated nanogold (AuNP-DG) and 2) PSMA-AuNP-Gd(III) nanoplatforms. Furthermore, we will summarize how nanoparticles take advantage of the tumor microenvironment for targeting cancer cells with examples. A review of drawbacks, challenges, and future opportunities as effective strategies to replace current clinical trends will be presented.
PSMA targeting of (A) IM tumor implantation (upper) showing offshoot growth at tumor edge; and (B) Sub cue tumor implantation (lower)

Comparison of tumor control with (a) Cs-137: 0.667 MV vs. (b) clinical 6 MV therapy. Clearly demonstrating the improved tumor control with PSMA-AuNP-Gd(III)

1. Funding: American Cancer Society.
Novel Theragnostic Approaches for Personalized Cancer Care

Bulent Aydogan, PhD
Professor of Radiation and Cellular Oncology
Director of Medical Physics
Director of Small Animal Irradiation Center
Director of Clinical Oximetry Center
Theranostic or TheraGnostic

Therapy-diagnosis

Thera - nostic

- **Thera:** by itself does not refer to therapy
  - Mythology: God of War, Lava
  - Biblical Greek: the hunt
  - It is the name of a **Greek island**
- **Nostic:** refer more to the disease than diagnostics.

- **Ther-agnostic** - lack of knowledge

Thera - gnostic

Linguistically the better approach is a synergy of the two words: **Therapo-gnostics**:

- **Gnosis:** Knowledge
- Nanotechnology has the potential to provide **knowledge-based precision medicine** through combination of molecular imaging and molecular radiotherapy.

Why should we be concerned about a “g”?

Savvas Frangos & John R. Buscombe

*European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* 46, 519 (2019)
Cancer Therapy

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death and morbidity with a complex pathophysiology.

Precision Medicine

was a dream 10 yrs ago!
1st pillar of Precision Medicine

*Early diagnosis* is still the most important weapon against CA

Imaging to identify not only location but also other attributes

Limitations
- lack of specificity
- Resolution
- how early is early?

Emerging Technologies in Point-of-care Cancer Diagnostics

- Nanoscale based technology
- Image analysis based
- Smartphones based
- Microfluidics based
- Electronic and Optoelectronic based
- Immunosensors based
- Molecular Imprinting based
- Ultrasound and MRI based
Relative sensitivity of different imaging technologies.

- Imaging systems vary in physical properties including sensitivity, temporal and spatial resolution.
Healthy human brain, PET, MRI, CT

CT- PET- MRI comparison

56-y-old patient with glioblastoma multiforme

Boss A, Hybrid PET/MRI of intracranial masses: Initial experiences and comparison to PET/CT JNM 51(8):1198-205, 2010
Challenges in imaging technology for cancer diagnosis and localization

- Current modalities are not specific enough to differentiate tumor from surrounding tissues
  - *Need contrast agents*

- Resolution is not optimal to differentiate tumor below certain size.
  - *PET is worse* ~0.6 cm vs. *CT @ 0.1*

- Considering even one mutated cell can trigger a tumor formation we need to develop better imaging tools
Challenges in cancer therapy

Imaging is the Key technology in cancer therapy

Tumor moves
Radiation Therapy of Cancer

Currently no real-time nor functional imaging for tumor targeting is available in Treatment room

We use fiducials
IT’S ALL ABOUT PROPER TARGETING

IMAGE AND MORE IMAGE
Project 1: Statement of the Problem

CT is used for treatment while PET(MRI) is used to identify tumor.

CT can only provide anatomic information with high spatial resolution.

No functional imaging currently available in the treatment room to see and target tumor.

A PET like CT tracer is urgently needed.
PET: Positron Emission Tomography
Finding tumors: Radiotracers

Tagging with compound specific to physiology/metabolism

Positron emitting Radioisotope

Sugar Metabolism

Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PET imaging</th>
<th>CT imaging with AuNp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Short half life (&lt; 6 hours)</td>
<td>• Longer blood retention due to large molecular weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Short blood retention</td>
<td>• Easier to synthesize: wet chemistry lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Complexity of synthesis: cyclotron/radiochemistry lab: <em>Cost &amp; Availability</em></td>
<td>• Stable and long shelf life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Radioactive</td>
<td>• Non-radioactive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Require Expensive technology and operation</td>
<td>• EPR-effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Limited availability</td>
<td>• <em>Tumor-specific targeting</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <em>Tumor-specific targeting ability</em></td>
<td>• Toxicity?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* *Tumor-specific targeting only with tagging.*
Elevated metabolism in tumor cells (Warburg Effect)

FDG preferentially taken up through GLUTs

Hexokinase 6 - phosphorylates FDG into FDG-6-P

FDG-6-P trapped in tumor cells
AuNP-DG

Uptake/entrapment of AuNP-DG are similar to FDG

Internalization via GLUT

6-phosphorylation by hexokinase

2 Carbon position in DG

Patent 2015 Aydogan and Rajh
TEM imaging

intracellular localization of the AuNP-DG
Results

(A) AuNP

(B) AuNP-1-DG

(C) AuNP-2-DG

MR vs CT vs CT with AuNP-DG

MRI

CT with AuNP-DG
Animal Imaging

3D rendering of the same mouse after 1 hour post injection.

Tumor is not visible

Tumor can be seen clearly.
Theranostic application of AuNP

6MV Treatment
Clinical Applications 1
Nano Enhanced Brachytherapy
Clinical Applications 2
Personalized Prostate Treatment
Toxicity

Mice

Dogs 10 months
The thorough evaluation conducted on the gold nanoshell at the extensive exposure levels evaluated here identified no indication of toxicity, lack of tolerance, or immunological effects.

**Table 2.** Histopathological Findings From 10-Month Chronic Dog Study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tissue</th>
<th>Lesion type</th>
<th>Sev.</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>70 mg/kg</th>
<th>140 mg/kg</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart (3)</td>
<td>Infiltrate</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inflammation</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSF</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>Hemorrhage</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Histiocytosis</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Infiltrate</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inflammation</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inflammation</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSF</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>Pigment, exogenous</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pigment, endogenous</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spleen</td>
<td>Congestion</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congestion</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congestion</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pigment, exogenous</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pigment, exogenous</td>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pigment, exogenous</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left kidney</td>
<td>Infiltrate</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mineralization, pelvic</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSF</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right kidney</td>
<td>Mineralization, pelvic</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nephropathy</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSF</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1 in 9 American men will have prostate cancer during his life

No.1
most commonly diagnosed cancer for men
(268, 490 estimated new cases in 2022)

nearly 3.1 million American men living with prostate cancer

No.2
#2 leading cause of cancer death among American men
(34, 500 estimated death in 2022)

Project 2: Precision Treatment for Prostate Cancer
Radiation therapy for prostate cancer

Potential side effects of RT for prostate cancer:

- Frequent urination
- Difficult or painful urination
- Blood in the urine
- Urinary leakage
- Abdominal cramping
- Diarrhea
- Painful bowel movements
- Rectal bleeding
- Rectal leaking
- Fatigue
- Sexual dysfunction, including diminished erectile function or decrease in the volume of semen
- Skin reactions (similar to a sunburn)
- Secondary cancers in the region of the radiation
MRI-guided Radiation therapy

Image-Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT)

- Incorporates imaging techniques during RT
- Accurate and precise
- Improved definition, localization and monitoring of tumor position, size and shape
- Decrease normal tissue damage

MRI-Guided Radiation Therapy

- Excellent soft tissue contrast
- Real time volumetric tracking
- No ionizing radiation for imaging
Radiosensitizers

**Radiosensitizer:** compounds that increase the cytotoxicity of ionizing radiation

Heavy-metal nanomaterials with high atomic number (Z) values absorb, scatter, and emit radiation energy

Need to deposit the High Z nanomaterials efficiently to tumor!

---


Au-Gd-PSMA NPs:

- High relaxivity (sensitivity)
- Selectively targeting to prostate cancer
- Synergetic sensitizing effect of Au and Gd

Radiation therapy of prostate cancer:

- Selective accumulation of NPs at prostate tumor
- Precise tumor localization by MRI
- Radiosensitizing enhancement and tumor inhibition by both Au and Gd
- Potentially used for MRI guided radiation therapy in other tumor models
- Can be combined with other chemotherapy/radiosensitizers

Au-Gd-PSMA NCs:

- MR/FL imaging
- Selectively targeting to prostate cancer

Project 3: Hafnium Nanostructures as Radiosensitizers
**PSMA targeted ligand**

**PSMA-1**  
$IC_{50}=2.30\,nM$


is a far-red (and near-infrared) emitting dye
In vivo MR imaging of prostate cancer

T1-weighted spin echo axial images
Injecting dose 60 umol/kg Gd

- Pre-injection
- 30 min
- 1 h
- 2 h
- 3 h
- 4 h
- 6 h
- 8 h
- 24 h

- bladder
- PC3pip tumor

Tumor CNR

Au and Gd content in tumor
Irradiation doses, 6 Gy x1 vs 6 Gy x2 4h & 24h
PSMA targeted AuNPs and size

PEGylated AuNPs

Tumor targeting

excretion

Radiation therapy

0 5 10 15 20
0
100
200
300
400
500
600
700
800

Time (d)

Tumor growth (%)

PBS
PBS+ 6Gy
19 nm AuNP+6 Gy
5 nm AuNP+6 Gy
2 nm AuNP+6 Gy

2 nm

5 nm

19 nm

Tumor staining – with radiation

DNA damage
Double strand break

Blank
AuNCs
AuNCs-MMAE
PSMA-MMAE
mix

2° Ab only (IHC control)

\( \gamma^-H2AX \)

\( \gamma^-H2AX \) & nuclei

\( \gamma^-co-localization \)
Au-Gd-PSMA NPs:
➢ High relaxivity
➢ Selectively targeting to prostate cancer
➢ Synergetic sensitizing effect of Au and Gd

Radiation therapy of prostate cancer:
➢ Selective accumulation of NPs at prostate tumor
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➢ Potentially used for MRI guided radiation therapy in other tumor models
➢ Can be combined with other chemotherapy/radiosensitizers

Au-Gd-PSMA NCs:
➢ MR/FL imaging
➢ Selectively targeting to prostate cancer

Project 3: Hafnium Nanostructures as Radiosensitizers

A) X-ray photon with energy $h\nu(X)$ interacting with the nanoparticle
B) Creation of electrons and secondary photons that will have lower energy than incident photons
C) Multiple electrons will travel in water medium within and outside the cell and will lose their energy by interaction mainly with water creating abundant ROS
D) Free radicals (ROS) generated will be responsible for DNA damage, leading to subsequent cell death

ROS: Reactive oxygen species
Monte Carlo Simulations Confirm Superior Radioenhancement by Nanoscale Metal-Organic Frameworks (nMOF)

nMOFs Enable Low-dose X-ray Radiotherapy-Radiodynamic Therapy (RT-RDT)

nMOF Radioenhancement Effects

**CT26**

![Graph](image)

**JSQ3**

![Graph](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REF at 10% Survival (6 MeV LINAC)</th>
<th>CT26</th>
<th>4T1</th>
<th>Hela</th>
<th>JSQ3</th>
<th>SQ20B</th>
<th>TUBO</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HfO$_2$</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBP-Hf</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>2.97</td>
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nMOFs Enable Low-Dose X-Ray Radiotherapy-Radiodynamic Therapy (RT-RDT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inoculation</th>
<th>Injection</th>
<th>X-ray doses</th>
<th>Sacrifice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PBS</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1 Gy</td>
<td>Day 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBP-HF</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>0.5 Gy</td>
<td>Day 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBP-HF</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1 Gy</td>
<td>Day 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tumor volume (cm$^3$)

Day post treatment

- no treatment
- nMOF (+) + Mouse IgG
- nMOF (+) + α-CD4
- nMOF (+) + α-CD8
- nMOF (+) + α-CD20

Antibody blocking experiments

RiMO-301 in phase 1 clinical trial
NCT03444714: Phase I Study of RiMO-301 with Radiation in Advanced Tumors

RiMO-301, courtesy of RiMO Therapeutics, Inc.

Primary Objectives:
- The primary objective is to determine the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) of RiMO-301 as determined by toxicity observed in patients treated with palliative radiation doses.

Secondary Objectives:
- To determine clinical response after RiMO-301 and radiotherapy as assessed by clinical response rate using clinical evaluation, imaging and/or symptom relief.
- To characterize adverse events of RiMO-301 in patients with advanced cancers.
- To evaluate the pharmacokinetics (PK) of RiMO-301 with radiation.

✓ Phase 1 Principal Investigator: Steven J. Chmura, MD, PhD and B. Aydogan, PhD
✓ 25 patients treated
✓ No systemic toxicity
✓ Promising efficacy with local PR and CR
nMOFs for X-ray activated in situ cancer vaccination

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Aydogan Lab!
Dr. Erik Pearson
Dr. Ji Li
Daniela Oliverda
Prof Chin-tu Chen

Thanks Basilion Lab!
Prof James P. Basilion
Prof Xinning Wang
Prof Ethan Walker
Dr. Dong Luo

Thanks to Lin Lab
Prof Wenbin Lin
Prof R Weicselbaum
Prof S Chmura

Thanks Meade Group!
Prof Thomas J. Meade
Dr. Matthew Bailey
Andrew Johnson

Thanks Argonne Lab
Dr. Tijana Raj

Thanks ACS for funding!

Thanks NIH for RO1 funding!
The global challenge is to feed 9 billion people by 2050 with a 60% increase in food availability. The agricultural and food sectors are confronted with such large issues as climate change, urbanization, sustainable use of resources, and environmental issues like run-off and accumulation of pesticides and fertilizers. Bionanotechnology can address such impacts as damage to the ecosystem with toxin-release due to the over application of fungicides, insecticides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Bionanotechnology can contribute to the potential increase in crop production, food security, and sustainability. Fundamental and innovative research is needed to address these challenges for improved biodiversity, productivity, nutrition, and quality. This entails understanding the mechanisms of host-parasite interactions at the molecular level, development of new generation of pesticides and their transport mechanisms, preservation, and packaging of food. The talk will focus on research efforts toward environment-friendly agriculture through the development of liposomes as a novel carrier for designing slow-release formulations of commercially available nematicides, the use of CuO nanoparticles for disease management and plant health improvement, and the sensing of soil nitrates.

**Keywords:** Cellular biology, Copper oxide, Antifungal, Targeted delivery, Micro and Nanotechnology, Nanoparticles, Pesticides.
Remembering

A giant and a colleague at HMNTL
Nick Holonyak Jr., a prolific inventor and longtime professor of electrical engineering and computing, died on 17 September at the age of 93.

In 1962, while working as a consulting scientist at General Electric’s Advanced Semiconductor Laboratory, he invented the first practical visible-spectrum LED. It is now used in light bulbs and lasers.

Holonyak left GE in 1963 to become a professor of electrical and computer engineering and researcher at his alma mater, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He retired from the university in 2013.

Holonyak received the 2003 IEEE Medal of Honor for “a career of pioneering contributions to semiconductors, including the growth of semiconductor alloys and heterojunctions, and to visible light-emitting diodes and injection lasers.”
Queen lights up LED inventor’s day with honour after Nobel Prize snub

Prof Nick Holonyak, the man behind the red LED light, receives engineering award years after being overlooked by Nobel committee

By Hannah Furness, ROYAL CORRESPONDENT
8 December 2021 - 6:45pm

Holonyak Micro & Nano Technology Lab | mntl.illinois.edu

DID YOU KNOW?

The first practical visible-spectrum (red) LED was developed in 1962 by Nick Holonyak, Jr., while working at General Electric Company!
Nick Holonyak Jr., Pioneer of LED Lighting, Is Dead at 93

He invented a visible red-light diode. His 41 patents also included lasers that enabled DVD and CD players.

Willis Tower, Chicago, and State Farm Center, Urbana glowed red in honor of Nick Holonyak Jr.

Presentation Outline

• Perspective
• About Bionanotechnology
• Projects
  • Digital Agriculture
  • CuO NP for Agriculture
  • Liposome Technology
  • Pathogenesis of fungi using NEMS
  • Rapid Testing of Nitrates in Soil
  • Plant Extracts for Cancer Nanomedicine
• Summary and Conclusions
• Acknowledgments
A Broad Perspective
Plant a tree even if it is your last deed.
Agricultural Practices in Islam

“Land cultivation means fixing the land, planting trees, growing cereals and grains, and taking care of the same, in addition to a good knowledge of the fertile, semi-fertile, and useless land. Further, the knowledge of each kind of tree and plant to be planted on given earth, and the choice of the best kind and proper time, water, insecticides, and fertilizer for each kind of plant and tree are essential. How to store the production is also included.” - Ibn al-Awwam

Ibn al-Awwam, Kitab al-Filaha al-Andalusiyyah, manuscript in the British Museum, p. 3.
Is there a Better Way to Feed the World?

**FOOD SYSTEM**

Five ways we can feed the world in 2050
• The main goal of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals is to **eliminate hunger by 2030**.

• > Billion people suffer from malnutrition.

• Rising population and climate change continue to stress the food production and distribution stakeholders.
Relationship between Agriculture, Food Security, and Climate Change

**Climate variability impact on Agriculture**
- Large temperature variations - extremes
- Excessive rainfall
- Droughts and Famine
- Changes in diseases and pests
- Changes in atmospheric CO2
- Rising sea levels
  - reducing agricultural land
  - reduction in the variety of crops and pasture lands

**Agriculture’s Impact on the Environment**
- Soil chemical pollution
- Soil erosion
- Greenhouse gas emissions
  - deforestation
  - methane emissions from rice cultivation
  - nitrogen emissions from fertilizers
Food Security and Safety

• To achieve sustainable food production capable of feeding the future population, resources must be used in a sustainable manner.

• Current agricultural practices that emerged during the green revolution are no longer viable. Nanomaterials may play an important role in the future of agriculture and food production in the recent era of evolving precision farming/site-specific crops.

• The most promising application of nanotechnology is in smart crop and food production processes.
Challenges

• Climate Change
• Rapidly growing Population
• Urbanization
• Sustainability of Natural Resources
Meeting the evolving needs of a growing population by 2050

+2.2 billion
Global population growth

+2.5 billion
People living in cities, increasing demand for innovative farming techniques and logistics

+50%
Food, feed & biofuel needed

+100%
Crop demand by 2050—at least

+70%
Calorie demand

Image: Bayer.com
Bionanotechnology
Micro/Nano Solutions

• Engineered Nanomaterials
• Targeted delivery of Fertilizer, Herbicide, Pesticide, and Weedicide
• Water sustainability through nanopolymers hydrogels
• Enhancing seed germination through metal oxide nanoparticles
  • Higher yields and vitamin content
  • Drought resistant

Nanocarriers with smart delivery systems can enhance crop productivity and reduce operations costs
AgBots

The Grainger Engineering researchers are focused on the mechanisms to increase the levels of autonomy in agbots while enabling interaction with humans / stakeholders, are testing their robots in the Illinois Autonomous Farm testbed. Katherine Rose Driggs-Campbell and Girish Chowdhary. Center for Digital Agriculture

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK5ncp82je4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LbbMWzfabQ
Agricultural Intelligence for a Sustainable Planet
AI-FARMS

• The Artificial Intelligence for Future Agricultural Resilience, Management, and Sustainability Institute serves as a nexus for multidisciplinary research teams that advance foundational AI and use these advances to address important challenges facing world agriculture.

• It focuses on technologies that impact production practices, on developing a diverse technically skilled workforce in digital agriculture, and on supporting women and minority farmers.
What is an Industry/University Cooperative Research Center?

- NSF funds operations, IAB members fund research areas of their interest
- Industry Advisory Board Members pay $50k annually at 10% overhead
- Over 1000 I/UCRC memberships across ~70 centers
- Level of Interest and Feedback Evaluation (LIFE) Process
- NSF I/UCRC Program has been running for 40 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensor Platforms</th>
<th>Nanosensors</th>
<th>Applications</th>
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<tr>
<td>Optical Chem/Biosensors</td>
<td>Diagnostics</td>
<td>Life Science Tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microelectronic Sensors</td>
<td>Food Safety</td>
<td>Agricultural Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imaging Modalities</td>
<td>Process Analytical</td>
<td>Food Safety Sensors</td>
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<td>Smartphone-Based</td>
<td>Pharma Screening</td>
<td>Mobile Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Micro/Nanofluidics</td>
<td>Point of Use/care</td>
<td>Water Quality Monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agricultural Sensors</td>
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CiiT Recently completed

instrumentation.illinois.edu
Converting Desert to Farmland with Clay

Clay in Soil in the right proportion provides fertility and resiliency

UAE converted in 40 days a barren plot of sand into an arable plot with sweet watermelons
Smart Sensing Technologies for AgBioFood Research Group
Irfan S. Ahmad
Research Faculty, Agricultural & Biological Engineering;
Holonyak Micro and Nanotechnology Lab.; and Biomedical and Translational Sciences

Research Interests
• Biological Engineering
• Off-Road Equipment Engineering
• Nanomedicine

Current Projects
• QNRF: A Novel Microchip based Spatial Gene Expression Analysis Assay for Breast & Prostate Cancer
• USDA: Innovative Food Dehydration Technologies for Improving Product Quality, Energy Efficiency, Sustainability
• NSF NCN: Hierarchical nanoManufacturing Node (https://nanohub.org/groups/nanoMFG)
• NSF I/UCRC: Center for Advanced Research in Drying (CARD) (Dryingresearch.org)
• DOD: Mechanism of Fungal Degradation in Military Aircraft Coatings - completed
• Dudley Smith Initiative: Reducing Insecticide Resistance: Development of Unique Liposomes Pest Control System (LPCS)-completed

Interest areas for collaboration/future work
Advanced manufacturing, Digital agriculture, Food safety, Smart sensing technologies

Keywords: Bionanotechnology, Crop, Imaging, Sensors, Nanomedicine, Pathogenesis, Soil
Collaborators and Group Members*

Irfan Ahmad
ABE/CNST/HMNTL/CIMED

Hanafy Fouly
Plant Pathology/HMNTL

Joseph Spencer
PRI/Crop Sciences/Entomology

Joseph Irudayaraj
BioE/HMNTL/IGB/CIMED

Rashid Ahmed, visiting researcher
Hina Ashraf, visiting graduate student
Postdoctoral research associate: Ezzeddine
Niknaz; Economu; Roveiza Irfan: undergraduates

G. Logan Liu
Formerly at ECE/BioE/HMNTL

* Former and current

ABE: Agricultural and Biological Engineering
BioE: Bioengineering
CIMED: Carle Illinois College of Medicine
CNST: Center for Nanoscale Science & Technology
ECE: Electrical and Computer Engineering
HMNTL: Holonyak Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory
IGB: Institute for Genomic Biology
PRI: Prairie Research Institute
Plant-Soil Interaction

Nano Biosensors

Nano Pesticides

Nano Fertilizers

Nano Insecticides

Smart Farms at Illinois, ISEE
Key Motivations: Bionanotechnology toward Environment-friendly Agriculture

• The global challenge is to feed 9 billion people by 2050 with a 60% increase in food availability.
• The agricultural and food sectors are confronted with such large issues as climate change, urbanization, sustainable use of resources, and environmental issues like run-off and accumulation of pesticides and fertilizers.
• Bionanotechnology can address such impacts as damage to the ecosystem with toxin release due to the overapplication of fungicides, insecticides, pesticides, and fertilizers.
• Bionanotechnology can contribute to the potential increase in crop production, food security, and sustainability. Fundamental and innovative research is needed to address these challenges for improved biodiversity, productivity, nutrition, and quality.
• Understanding the mechanisms of host-parasite interactions at the molecular level, developing a new generation of pesticides and their transport mechanisms, preservation, and packaging of food.
• Focus on research efforts toward environment-friendly agriculture through the development of liposomes as a novel carrier for designing slow-release formulations of commercially available nematicides, the use of CuO nanoparticles for disease management and plant health improvement, and the sensing of soil nitrates.
Barriers to Overcome: Bionano in Agriculture

• Determination and minimization of toxicity levels- risk assessment

• Bionano Regulatory Framework

• Global adoption of new Agricultural Protocols (through the UN FAO, the USDA, FDA, WFP)
Detection of Plant Disease

- Early detection of the disease is key to higher yields
- Enables the reduced use of pesticides and fungicides
- Contributes to decreased toxicity for a greener environment
- Bionano Sensing of pathogens in a site-specific manner
- Targeted Delivery of nanoencapsulated pesticides
CuO Nanoparticles for Boosting Crop Growth

Hina Ashraf, Tehmina Anjum, Saira Riaz, Irfan S. Ahmad, Joseph Irudayaraj, Sidra Javed, Uzma Qaiser, Shahzad Naseem

Environmental Significance

• Positive correlation between green synthesized nanoparticles and plants contributing to plant growth parameters concurrently minimizing the environmental contamination of conventional fungicides due to their specific physio-chemical properties.

• Antifungal behavior of CuO nanoparticles showed spore and mycelial inhibition. Improvement in tomato growth parameters and fruit quality also indicated the positive impact of these miniature particles.

• Nanoscale particles have the ability to boost the defense and growth responses in tomatoes; therefore, they can be utilized both as nano-fungicide and nano-fertilizer, thus playing a crucial role in the agriculture- specifically for crop improvement.
Synthesis and Characterization of CuO-CF NPs*

- *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. Lycopersici* strain was put on PDA

**In vitro and in vivo** anti-fungal activity of CuO-CF NPs

- Concentrations 5-350 ug/mL

CF: *Cassia fistula* plant extract
Figure: UV-visible absorption spectra of gmcnn synthesized CuO-CFNPs at best optimization conditions: 1N - isible spectra of all under different optimization conditions during synthesis were documented as a function of: (A), UV-visible absorption of CuO-CFNPs. Stability of copper oxide nanoparticles (1Wmins-functh)): (B) pH (9); (C) Amomd oICIF Iwextact(Sm.L); (D)); Copper sulphate concentration (SmM); (6) T (m-penaUllin8WC).
Size distribution intensity and zeta potential distribution of CuO-CFNPs (A&B) - Dynamic light scattering
**Figure.** Fluorescence microscopy of *F. oxysporum* mycelium treated with different concentrations of CuO-CF nanoparticles (300 µg/mL & 350 µg/mL) and control (sterile water). **A-C:** represents accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in hyphal cells of *F. oxysporum* stained with DCFH-DA (dichloro-dihydro-fluorescein diacetate) staining, **D-F:** fungal hyphal cells with damaged cell-membrane show red fluorescence in contrast to control after staining with Propidium iodide (PI), **G-I:** representative fluorescence micrograph of hyphal cells stained with Calcofluor white (CFW) indicating low glucan and chitin content in fungal cell-wall treated with nanoparticles. Scale bar: 10µm.
Size analysis of green-synthesized CuO-CF nanoparticles:

(A) SEM Image (Scale bar of 1µm),
(B) Magnified view of SEM (Scale bar of 500 nm),
(C) Size distribution analysis of SEM image,
(D) TEM image (scale bar indicates 100 nm),
(E) Histogram of size distribution of TEM image,
(F) Energy Dispersive X-ray (EDX) spectrum of CuO-CFNPs.
**Synthesis and Characterization of CuO-CF NPs**

- All chemicals used in this study were of analytical grade, used in pure form. A strain of *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. lycopersici (IAGS-1322) was maintained on PDA. Fresh leaves of *Cassia fistula* (CF) were boiled in de-ionized water for 30 minutes. The plant extract was allowed to cool and filtered with Whatman filter paper at room temperature. The CuO-CF NPs were synthesized as follows: 45 mL of 5mM CuSO₄·5H₂O solution prepared in de-ionized water was reduced stepwise by addition of 5 mL of *C. fistula* extract in 100ml flask. Optimization of reaction condition for CF-CuO NPs were achieved by adjusting pH, amount of CF-leaf extract, CuSO₄·5H₂O concentration and stirring temperature. The biosynthesized copper oxide - *Cassia fistula* nanoparticles (CuO-CF NPs) were characterized by UV-visible, FTIR, XRD, DLS, TEM, and SEM with EDX.

**In-vitro and In-vivo antifungal activity of CuO-CF NPs**

- *In-vitro* antifungal activity of CuO-CF NPs, against *F. oxysporum*, was evaluated at different concentrations of of CuO-CF NPs, i.e., 5, 25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, and 350 μg/mL. Media plates treated with distilled water and fungicide served as positive and negative control respectively. The potential of CuO-CF NPs to damage fungal membrane, ROS induction, and loss of cell viability in *F. oxysporum* was investigated by following the protocols described by Wei et al. 1.

- *In-vivo* efficacy of CuO-CF NPs was evaluated under greenhouse conditions using tomato as model plant. Growth parameters such as length (root + shoot), biomass weight (fresh + dry), and percentage disease incidence (DI) and severity (DS) was recorded after 45 days. Photosynthetic pigments, phenolic content and stress / antioxidant enzymatic compounds were estimated in tomato plants (roots and shoots) after treatment with various concentrations of CuO-CF NPs. Similarly, accumulation of bioactive compounds such as vitamin C, lycopene and flavonoids in tomato fruit were determined at end of field experiment (143th day).

- Histochemical analysis performed to evaluate the production of defense compound in roots and shoots of treated and control plants. Moreover, Cu-content in tomato plants (roots and shoots) was measured by Atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

**Statistical Analysis**

- Statistical analysis was performed by employing Graph-pad-prism (8.4.3) software (CA, United States) and Statistic 8.1.
RESULTS

Synthesis and Characterization

In-vitro & In-vivo Bioassays

Fig. UV-visible absorbance spectra of green synthesized CuO-CNFPs at best optimization conditions. The absorbance spectra under different optimization conditions during synthesis were documented as a function of (A) UV-visible absorbance spectra of CuO-CNFPs. Stability of copper oxide nanoparticles (Climax-forminum); (B) pH (9); (C) Amount of CF leaf extract fixed; i.e., (D) copper sulphate concentration (15mM) (E) Temperature (9°C).

Fig. FTIR spectra of synthesized CuO-CNFPs: (A) Spectra of CF extract solution. (B) Spectra of CuO-CNFPs.

Fig. X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) Pattern of CuO-CNFPs

Fig. Size distribution intensity and zeta potential distribution of CuO-CNFPs (A&B) as revealed by Dynamic light scattering.

Fig. Reflectance spectra of CuO-CNFPs: (I) In vitro and (II) In vivo bioassays. (A) In vitro bioassays: (B) and (E) The effect of CuO-CNFPs on the expression of CuO-CNFPs in different concentrations, (C) and (F) In vivo bioassays: (D) The effect of CuO-CNFPs on the expression of CuO-CNFPs in different concentrations, and (G) and (H) The effect of CuO-CNFPs on the expression of CuO-CNFPs in different concentrations.

Table 1: Effect of CuO-CNFPs on the growth and yield of different varieties in both control and experimental conditions.

Table 2: Effect of CuO-CNFPs on the growth and yield of different varieties in both control and experimental conditions.

Fig. Effects of various concentrations of CuO-CNFPs on the growth and yield of different varieties in both control and experimental conditions.
Nanotechnology has shown promising potential to promote sustainable agriculture. It has many applications in the agricultural sector including nanofertilizers, nanopesticides, nanobiosensors or as bioremediation agents. However, a better understanding of nanomaterials’ fate and their eco-impacts remains a major challenge in agricultural and environmental sciences. Combined research among institutes exploring different uses of nanomaterials would be crucial to develop efficient, multifunctional, stable, cost-effective and environment-friendly nanomaterials.

Application of nanomaterials may assist in improving the growth and yield of crop plants, but response may alter as per plant species. Thus, commercial use of nanomaterials requires comprehensive investigations into screening and optimization of the nanomaterials for different plant species.

Efficiency and behavior of nanomaterials can be tailored by tuning the properties and stability of nanomaterials. Therefore, further progress in the development of innovative and improved synthesis methods with precise control over product composition will be highly useful to improve their efficiency.

Moreover, most of the studies on nano-assisted agriculture rely on experiments performed under controlled conditions while limited data is available regarding their field application. More knowledge at field level would be highly useful for large-scale implementation of nano-based strategies.
Summary

• CuO NPs synthesis and characterization aided in tomato growth
• Eco-friendly CuO NPs showed potent activity against fungal pathogens
• Continued research is needed to show the promise of CuO NP toward sustainable agriculture for food security
Liposome Technology for Environment Friendly Agriculture
Liposome Technology for Pest Management

**Rationale:** It is estimated that approximately 50 million acres of U.S. corn production faces pressure from corn rootworms.

The total external cost attributed to pesticide resistance is estimated at 10 and 25% of current pesticide treatment costs, or more than $1.5 billion each year in the United States.

The experiments focus on the development and testing of an innovative approach to sustainable CRW management.

**Short term objectives:**

1) Develop and use liposomes as new carriers for slow or delayed release formulations of commercially available insecticides; and

2) Evaluate insecticide-liposome complexes for management of CRW in the greenhouse and small field trials.
Corn Rootworms are Historic Pests

...With a history of resistance to:
Pesticides (1950s),
Crop rotation (1980s), &
Bt corn hybrids (2010s).
IL is a rootworm resistance epicenter.
Western Corn Rootworm (WCR) Lifecycle

Climatic Factors play a significant role in the Life Cycle of WCR
Goals

Long-term

• To use liposomes as a new tool for designing slow-release formulations of insecticides (conventional, plant-derived, and microbial)
• To maximize their efficiency in controlling Corn Root Worm for improved crop production
1. Preparation of Liposomes using the thin-film dehydration-rehydration method obtaining, multilamellar vesicles (MLVs) and small unilamellar vesicles (SUVs)

2. Conducting Bioassays with different concentrations of commercial insecticides and insecticide-liposome formulations applied to corn plants grown in the greenhouse and field plots

Potential outcome:
This project leads to the development of new, environmentally safe formulations of insecticides useful for CRW management.
Pesticide

Insecticide

Rodenticide

Fungicide

NEMATICIDE

Herbicide

Bifenthrin
10mg/plant (recommended)

~5ug/plant (targeted)
Stability profile of insecticide liposomal formulation developed and used as a calibration metric

Stability tested over discrete time intervals of two weeks to six months

Slow release of insecticide from liposome in soil(s) (e.g. ~0.01 mg/ml over four weeks) monitored under varying watering conditions

Analyze data from different locations in Illinois, to study the effects of insecticide formulation on corn
A CARRIER for insecticide: Biocompatible substances that can carry a drug.

Lipid Based Carriers

- Micelles
- Vesicles
- Multifunctional Dendritic Polymers
- Liquid Crystals
- Nanocapsules
- Nanospheres
Phospholipids

Major Structural lipid in cell membranes
Lipid Vesicles

- In an aqueous environment
  - Hydrophilic heads assemble together
  - Lipophilic tails align away from water
- They form spherical structures called **liposomes**

Figure 1. Cross-sectional view of a small unilamellar liposome.

Liposomes are generally relatively small (~50nm in φ) in aqueous compartments that are surrounded by a phospholipid bilayer membrane. In our case we are using 1µ sized liposome.
Hydration-Sonication Method

1. **Lipids dissolved in CHCl₃**
2. **Uniform Lipid Film**
3. **Add Insecticide (Bifenthrin)**
4. **Immerse in Water Bath**
   - Lipid Film swells to form vesicles with insecticide inside

The energy from the sound waves in sonication process results in a homogeneous population of liposomes.

Mean particle size also is based on lipid composition and is quite reproducible from batch to batch.


---

**Holonyak Micro & Nano Technology Lab**
mntl.illinois.edu
Characterization

Size Distribution by Intensity

Record 5: lipo_bifen only 1
Stability

- Measure insecticide leakage
  - Sample A: micro liposome solution at time $t = \text{Day 1}$
  - Sample B: micro liposome solution at $t = 2, 7, 14, 21, 28$ days
    - Leaked insecticide is removed and two samples are compared

- Differential Light Scattering (DLS) – Measure change in size of carriers 600-1200 µm

An image of an aqueous solution of rehydrated Bifenthrin-liposomes vesicles (crude preparation without sonication; 40X).
Release studies of BF from various Liposomes Formulations

DPPC:DSPC :Chol (50:30:20) showed a constant and prolonged BF release profile as compared to other liposomal systems which showed initial burst and very short release profiles of BF i.e. DPPC:DSPC :Chol (70:20:10) and DPPC:DSPC :Chol (60:10:30)
Plant-based bioassays using modified methods of Gassmann et al. (2011)

Soil in 1-liter cups is treated with various liposome formulations

Neonate WCR larvae are inoculated @≥V5 stage and allowed to develop for 17 days

Surviving larvae are extracted using Berlese funnels

Measure on-plant larval survival (proportion) and size (head capsule width) to assess the impact of formulations on WCR survival and development

Lab studies on dynamics of WCR-liposome interactions and plot trials for field efficacy

Summary

Liposomes will slow the release of insecticides, prolonging the period when lethal concentrations are present in the soil.

Protect corn roots in the field from larval injury longer than roots treated with un-encapsulated insecticide.

Liposomes can also be used as a delivery system for different chemicals and gene delivery (i.e. small interference RNA).
Pathogenesis of Fungi using NEMS

Hanafy Fouly, Taher Saif, Irfan S. Ahmad
Pathogenesis of Fungi using NEMS

- **Rationale:** Take-all (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*) is the most damaging root disease of cereals worldwide. It is estimated that one infected root in 10,000 is sufficient to cause an epidemic. Overall losses incurred by U.S. growers are estimated at $500-1000 million annually.

Infection of wheat root by *Gaeumannomyces* sp. (a) ectotrophic, melanized (black) hyphae; (b) ectotrophic, melanized hyphae with hyline infectious hyphae invading the cortical tissue, transcending the endodermis and colonizing the stele with melanized hyphae; (c) wheat root with non-melanized hyphae at the surface of the endodermis and melanized hyphae in the stele.

Distal end of Fungal Hypha (h) with Exposed Point of Indentation (poi)

Infection of wheat root by *Gaeumannomyces* sp. (a) ectotrophic, melanized (black) hyphae; (b) ectotrophic, melanized hyphae with hyline infectious hyphae invading the cortical tissue, transcending the endodermis and colonizing the stele with melanized hyphae; (c) wheat root with non-melanized hyphae at the surface of the endodermis and melanized hyphae in the stele.
Biosensing of Soybean Rust Spores

• The overarching goal was - the deployment of a decision support tool to assist producers with ‘if’ and ‘when’ to apply fungicides for the management of soybean rust.

• Soybean rust is a disease caused by the fungus *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, with moderate to severe crop losses worldwide.

• With the absence of soybean rust resistant varieties; producers have to resort to effective on-time fungicide application.

• Developed a subtractive bioassay to specifically detect the binding of soybean rust spores to its primary antibodies.

• Rust spores are suspension particles in a buffer, difficult to immobilize the rust spores on the sensor surface.

• Using the subtractive bioassay technique, we did not need to immobilize rust spores on the sensor surface, but to detect the amount of antibodies not bound to the spores in the solution.

• The results were compared to a negative control with corn rust spores that did not show any decrease in signals, which means no binding to the available antibodies.

• Specific detection of primary antibodies by binding to immobilized secondary antibodies on the photonic crystal sensor surface, potentially leading to the development of a hand-held sensing device.

Irfan S. Ahmad¹,²,⁴, Leo Chan³,⁴, Wei Zhang³,⁴, Ramya Vittal⁶, Brian T. Cunningham¹,³,⁴, Glen Hartman⁵⁻⁷, Linda Kull⁵
Characterization of Plant Diseases Suppressive Soils using Novel Technology

Hanafy Fouly, G. Logan Liu, Irfan S. Ahmad
Characterization of Plant Diseases Suppressive Soils using Novel Technology*

• **Rationale:** Microorganisms live in soil, and play a critical role for maintaining soil function in both natural and agricultural soils because of their involvement in such key processes as soil structure formation, decomposition of organic matter, toxin removal, and the cycling of carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulphur.

• Microorganisms play vital roles in suppressing soilborne plant pathogens, in promoting plant growth, and in changes in vegetation.

• Some soils suppress plant pathogens by limiting either the survival or the growth of those pathogens. Such soils are known as pathogen- or disease-suppressive and are found throughout the world.

*Project initiative*  Ahmad, Eastburn, Liu, Fouly

Colorimetric nanoplasmonic imaging sensor (device) and cellular phone color imaging system for detecting VOCs.
Rapid Nitrate Soil Analysis with ISFETs

Randy Price, John Hummel, Irfan S. Ahmad
Rapid Nitrate Analysis of Soil Cores with ISFETs*

R. R. Price, J. W. Hummel, S. J. Birrell, I. S. Ahmad

ASAE Vol. 46(3): 601-610 © 2003 American Society of Agricultural Engineers

Fig. Nitrate extraction curve (ISFET3) for a low-nitrate Ade loamy sand soil (Test 336 - 31 ppm).

*Ion-selective field-effect transistor/flow injection analysis (ISFET/FIA)
Plant Extracts for Cancer Nanomedicine
Plants-based Medicine

• In medicine, Muslim researchers focused on plant preservation in respect to its characteristics and medicinal features.

• Wild Thyme
  • “A wild fine leaves almost black plant. There is one kind of it called ‘Donkey or Mountain thyme’, wider in leaves, less in bitterness, but the garden thyme is planted like the mint. It is an antidote medicine against colic and almost all types of poisons. It gives a good taste for all foods and refines blood[4].”
  - Dâwûd b. ‘Umar Al-Antaki.

Nanomedicine for Cancer Research
Studies on Biologically Active Proteins/Peptides from Medicinal Plants

Irfan S. Ahmad2,4,5, Atiya Abbasi1, Saubia Naz1, Uzma Zaman1,
Kenneth L. Watkin2,3, Ezzudin Mohammed2,3, Brian T. Cunningham2,4,6

Sherine George2,6
Leo L. Chan2,4, Saujanya Gosangari3, Julia Drubinskaya3, Roveiza Irfan2,3

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2Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory, 3Applied Health Sciences, and Beckman Institute, 4Electrical and Computer Engineering, 5Agricultural and Biological Engineering, 6Bioengineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL 61801, USA www.cnst.illinois.edu

George, S., et al., 2010; BioMed Central Complementary and Alternative Medicine; Chan, Leo, et al. 2011; Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Motivation

• Pakistan has the third highest cancer rate of all thirteen South-Central Asian countries

• Over 70% of the developing world's population still depends on the complementary and alternative systems of medicine (CAM)

• Evidence-based CAM therapies have shown remarkable success in healing acute as well as chronic diseases

• There is a need for:
  • training and capacity-building programs for CAM practitioners
  • bringing CAM to mainstream healthcare

1 Based on the 2002 world wide statistics reported by the International Agency for Research on Cancer

Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology and College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois
How the Photonic Crystal Biosensor Works

- Cell attachment to sensor surface causes a change in wavelength of reflected light
- Referred to as Peak Wavelength Value (PWV) Shift
- Sensor surface is illuminated with white light at normal incidence
- Reflected light is collected with a spectrometer
- Sensor is incorporated into 96/384/1536 well microplate format
- Imaging instrument - 22.3μm resolution mode
Human Breast Cancer Cell Screening

• A baseline scan is taken (a)

• Breast cancer cells (MCF-7) are grown on biosensor surface in microplate wells
  - 24 hr incubation (37 C, CO2 incubator)
  - PWV shift image due to cell attachment is taken

• Cells exposed to library of plant extracts
  - 24 hr incubation (37 C, CO2 incubator)
  - ~0.1 mg/ml concentration
  - PWV shift image due to cell apoptosis is taken (c)
  - 61 plant extracts from Bangladesh and Pakistan are screened

• Cell death by apoptosis
  - Results in LOSS of attached cancer cells from sensor surface

L. Chan et al, 2007
Cell Detection

- Attachment of cells to biosensor causes a PWV shift
- Histogram of PWV shift values is used to set a threshold for cell attachment
- Cell count is obtained from the histogram

L. Chan et. al, 2007
Screening Results

L. Chan et. al., 2007

Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology and College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois
## Screening Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of Plant Extracts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highly Cytotoxic</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytotoxic</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Proliferation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Effect</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced Proliferation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>61</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cunningham, *et al.*

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L. Chan *et al.*, 2007

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Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology and College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois
Human Pancreatic Cancer Cell Screening

- Developed cell assay for pancreatic cancer cells (Panc-1) for photonic biosensor system
- Studied cell proliferation in presence of drug
  - Gemcitabine Hydrochloride
  - Obtain a drug concentration curve using the biosensor
- Studied cell proliferation in presence of plant extracts from our collaborators in Pakistan
- Five extracts are currently the focus of this study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Extract</th>
<th>IC 50 ± SD (µg/ml)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Cumin - Cuminum cyminum LTP</td>
<td>&gt; 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Cumin - Carum carvi</td>
<td>83.51 ± 1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methi - Trigonella foenum-graecum</td>
<td>46.89 ± 0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalonji - Nigella sativa</td>
<td>20.13 ± 0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mako - Solanum nigrum</td>
<td>1.82 ± 0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doxorubicin - Standard</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results of in vitro cytotoxicity assay of some crude protein extracts/purified protein using Prostrate cancer cell line (PC3)

Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology and College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois

Watkin, et al.
UI Bionanotechnology Research Facilities

The Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST)- a campus-wide collaboratory for facilitating research, education, and entrepreneurship in nanotechnology, and the College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois

- Holonyak Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory

Bionano Lab
- Part of the CNST Collaboratory
- 8000 sq. ft Class 100 clean room
- BioNanotechnology labs
- Research Areas include:
  - Nanophotonics and Optoelectronics
  - Micro and Nanoelectronics
  - Bionanotechnology and Nanomedicine
  - MEMS and Integrated Systems
HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry

- Houses the single largest doctoral program in Pakistan with over 250 PhD students
- Member of the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences system (ICCS)
- Research Areas include:
  - natural product chemistry
  - protein chemistry
  - computational medicinal chemistry
  - plant biotechnology

Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology and College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois
## Plant Extracts for Cancer Nanomedicine

| Type of data produced | -Plant extracts for medicinal use (cancer and infectious diseases)  
-Current Qty: 100, with 3000 more to study  
-Being explored with NanoHub at Illinois |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Importance and frequency of this type of nanocharacterization | Importance: 4  
Frequency: 4 |
| Type of equipment/ instrumentation needed | Biophotonic crystal sensor and card reader |
| Reference materials available (if at all) | -Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology  
-Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory  
-ICCS/HEJ Chemistry Institute, Karachi; USDA, ARS, National -Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN) [Online Database] |

- Standardized data format?  
- Specific to any particle class of nanoparticle?  
- Data archived anywhere?
Kenneth L Watkin PhD, Irfan S Ahmad PhD, Brian T Cunningham PhD

College of Applied Health Sciences & College of Engineering
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign USA

Atiya Abassi PhD

H E J Research Institute of Chemistry
University of Karachi Pakistan

Developed with support from -

The National Academy of Science
US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Pakistan Higher Education Commission (HEC)
A Pakistan – US Science Technology Cooperative Program
**Brassica juncea**

**Scientific name(s):** *Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern. (1), *Brassica integrifolia* (Vahl) O.E. Schulz, non Rupr. (1)

**Family names:** *Brassicaceae* (1), *Cruciferae* (2)

**English name(s):** India mustard (1), curled mustard (4), brown mustard, leaf mustard, mustard greens, chinese mustard (8)

**Arabic name:** مسول

**Notes**

Disclaimer: Everything mentioned in this database is for educational purposes. The University of Illinois cannot take responsibility for any adverse affect from the use of plants mentioned in this database. Always seek advice from a professional before using a plant medically.

**Introduction**

*Brassicaceae* is a large family which include 350 genera and about 3000 species (5). It is a distributed nearly worldwide, especially in the temperate areas, with the highest diversity in the Irano-Turanian region, Mediterranean area, and Western North America (6). The genus *Brassica* includes plants that are annual, biennial, or perennial herbs. There are about 40 species in this genus distributed mainly in the Mediterranean region; only seven of them are found in Pakistan, among them is *Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern (5).

*Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern is native to Asia temperate, widely naturalized and widely cultivated (7).

**Distribution**


**Description**

*Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern is an erect, reddish-brown (5). There is tremendous variation in the basal leaf morphology of *Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern., and minor variants have been recognized at specific, subspecific, and varietal ranks (10).

**Constituents and Uses**

*Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern. is high in vitamins A, B2, C and iron. Seeds contain sterols, sinigrin, myrosin, sinapine, and fixed oils. Hydrolysis of sinigrin by the enzyme myrosin yields allyl isothiocyanate, glucose, and potassium bisulfate. Allyl isothiocyanate is volatile. Allyl isothiocyanate is an irritant. It is also inductoremycin and has counterirritant properties when greatly diluted. It should not be tested or injected when undiluted. It is one of the most toxic essential oils. Volatile mustard oil has strong antimicrobial (bacteria and fungi) properties (11).

*Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern is reported to be anodyne, aperitif, diuretic, emetic, rubefacient, and stimulant. It is a folk remedy for arthritis, boils, lumbago, and rheumatism. Seeds used for tumor in China. Roots used as a galactagogue in Africa. Referred to be aperitif and tonic, the volatile oil is used as a counterirritant and stimulant. In form the plant is used as an antispasmodic, vermifuge. Leaves applied to the forehead are said to relieve headache. In Korea, the seeds are used for abscesses, colds, leprosy, rheumatism, and stomatitis disorders. Chinese eat the leaves in soups for bladder inflammation and hemostate. Mustard oil is used for skin eruptions and ulcers (11).

**Phytochemicals**

- Glucobrassicinapin
- Glucoiberin
- Glucapin
- Mohammed, et al.
Overall Conclusions

• Bionanotechnology research provides avenues for transitioning to 
  environment-friendly agriculture and for enhanced food security
  - more research is needed

• Digital Agriculture in sync with Machine Learning/Artificial 
  Intelligence and Bionanotechnology could revolutionize communities
  and improve livelihoods by alleviating poverty

• The next generation agricultural engineering workforce has to be 
  prepared to work at the intersection of bionano in agricultural sciences, big 
  data, and sensing technologies.
NanoPower Group*

Irfan Ahmad: Bionano for sustainable Agric & Food...

Munir Nayfeh: the Palestinian who moved the atoms...

Bulent Aydogan: Nanomedicine - Secrets to a healthy long life...

* Formed in 2004 to promote nanotechnology research, innovation-based entrepreneurship, education/training, and outreach
Acknowledgements

• SmartSensing Research Group- Research scientists, graduate and undergraduate students
• National Academy of Sciences
• Nano Sensors Group, UIUC
• Holonyak Micro and Nanotechnology Lab, UIUC
• Beckman Institute, UIUC
• Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, UIUC
• Profs. Munir Nayfeh, Taher Saif, Rashid Bashir
• ICCS/HEJ Chemistry Institute, University of Karachi- Prof. Atiya Abbasi
• Prof. Tehmina Anjum and collaborators, University of the Punjab
Enhancing Quality of Life through Nano Solutions Around the World Every Day.

Illinois Council for Food and Agriculture (C-FAR)
THANK YOU

Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS)  Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology

Kingdom of Morocco
Contact Info.

Irfan S. Ahmad

isahmad@illinois.edu
ENERGY SECURITY BETWEEN NUCLEAR, RENEWABLE AND NANOTECHNOLOGIES

MUNIR H. NAYFEH FIAS
Professor, Department of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
President, NanoSi Advanced Technologies, Inc. Champaign, Illinois, USA

ABSTRACT

The time of abundant oil and gas is at an end and the world is entering a stage where finding resources is becoming more “complex” and requiring more money and investment. In fact, energy security is becoming one of the leading issues in the world today, and as such great efforts are put to action to find solutions. Here we argue that there is no single solution for energy security, rather a multi-component solution is more likely. These include oil (+ natural gas + coal), nuclear energy, renewable energy, conservation as well as technology and innovation. Renewables such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and biomass including biofuels constitute a potentially very useful component but they are intermittent. Technological innovation such as advanced material technologies and nanotechnology, which will bring cost reductions of energy technologies, is destined to be a driver of the uptake of renewable energy sources, conservation, and enhanced oil discovery and recovery. Nuclear energy however is pivotal, and we believe that there can be no real security without nuclear energy to provide a steady energy component. Finally, true security lies in the “stability of the energy market” for all participants, importer and exporters, rather than the narrowly defined interest of any one country.
Energy security between nuclear, renewable, climate and nano technologies

Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology Conference, Rabat, Morocco
October 17, 2022

Munir H. Nayfeh
Departments of Physics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
NanoSi Advanced Technologies, Inc., Champaign, IL USA
Parasat-Nanosi LLC, Astana, Kazakhstan
Reach-NanoSi, Ramallah, Palestine
What is energy security?

Energy Security is

(i) **uninterrupted** physical availability

(ii) **price** which is affordable & “steady”

(iii) respecting **environment** concerns

(iv) eliminating **climate** problems

Energy security has become one of the leading issues in the world today

**Energy Security Between**

nuclear, renewable, climate, and nanotechnologies
The Energy Challenge تحديات الطاقة
Increasing global energy consumption - زيادة الاستهلاك

Acute Interruptions in supply chains, production and sanctions due to climate disasters, wars, pandemic disease or politics الكوارث الكبرى

Increasing oil and natural gas prices - زيادة الأسعار والتكلفة

Nearly 2 billion people live without electricity - عالم بدون كهرباء
Global warming - الاحتباس الحراري
Environmental pollution - التلوث البيئي
Crashes and spikes of oil production & prices

Corona pandemic

Russia-Ukraine war
Energy Resources

**Fossil** *(Oils, coal, natural gas, shale)*

**Renewable** *(solar, biomass, hydro (water), geothermal, wind)*

**Nuclear**

Oil to economy has become what oxygen is to humans.

The **new resources** will become more useful as the **price** of exporting and importing oil increases due to the increase of demand.
Fossil- (oil, gas, shale, and coal)

Types: Crude Oil or Petroleum, coal, natural gas, shale, and orimulsion are the four fossil fuel. They are Nonrenewable energy resources. We can add nuclear energy to the non renewables.

Origin: Over millions of years, heat and pressure from Earth's crust decomposed organisms (remains or fossil of ancient marine organisms, such as plants, algae, and bacteria, dead animals and plants).

Burning to energy: Petroleum is mainly a mixture of hydrocarbons containing only carbon and hydrogen. The most common components are paraffins, naphthenes, and aromatic hydrocarbons. They are burned in the presence of oxygen. Heat energy is produced and used to heat water, which produces steam which rises and drives a turbine.
Shale Revolution

Unmature rock formations
The "fracking" technology — a combination of the words "hydraulic fracturing" — so far is a phenomenon limited largely to the United States, although many other countries including China, Australia and Mexico have similar energy exploration potential.

It's a deep-drilling technique that injects fluid into the ground at a high pressure in order to fracture shale rocks to release natural gas allows that previously were unreachable.

Fracking could turn the world market for energy upside down
Nuclear Power

- Uranium is mined & enriched
- Relatively-reliable power
- **Peak** uranium does exist (Underwater sources)
- **Danger** associated to it
  - high waste energy
  - radiation leaks (nuclear runoff into streams & lakes)

Currently it powers a small fraction of the world's electricity (15%)
"put the sun into a box. The problem is, we don't know how to make the box."

The 14 MeV neutrons produced by the fusion reactions will damage the materials from which the reactor is built.

Neutron bombardment will induce radioactivity in the reactor material.

- A Tokamak uses a magnetic field to confine a plasma in the shape of a torus
- The Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR) at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) from 1982 to 1997
Gravitation: ultimate origin of energy

The origin of energy is:

Gravitation: formed stars, gravitation collapse, burning star, sun for example (nuclear)

Naturally: Some nuclear energy is produced naturally. The Sun and other stars make heat and light by nuclear reactions.

Man-Made: Nuclear energy can be man-made. **Nuclear reactors** provide electricity for many cities. Nuclear reactions also occur in the explosion of **atomic and hydrogen bombs**

The sun and stars use nuclear reactions to produce energy (matter is converted to energy).

Stars work on fusion
Nuclear reactors work on fission

Presently, nuclear energy provides for ~16% of the world's electricity.

Fossil oil: organics under extreme pressure/temperature

Scientists are working to make fusion reactors with potential of providing more energy with fewer disadvantages than fission reactors.
Small modular reactors (SMR)

SMRs are nuclear fission reactors that are smaller than conventional nuclear reactors and typically have an electrical power output of less than 300 MW<sub>e</sub> or a thermal power output of less than 1000 MW<sub>th</sub>.

Power ~ 230,000 homes a year.
Construction time: 500-day
Cost $600 M (10% of standard)
Construction mode: *in situ*

Cooling: Conventional reactors use water as a coolant. SMRs may use water, liquid metal, gas and molten salt as coolants.
Modular Reactors in action

- The first and only completed working prototype in the world connected to the grid (2019)
- Place: Floating nuclear power plant Akademik Lomonosov, Russia
- Two each with a capacity of 35 MWₑ.
- Concept based on the design of icebreakers.

The construction of the world's first commercial land-based SMR started in July 2021 with the Chinese power plant "Linglong One".

The operation of this prototype is due to start by the end of 2026.

Many unfinished demonstration projects
**Impact of Climate on Energy**

- electricity demand increases for air conditioning in the summer and natural gas and wood for heating. more investment for more electricity plants or purchasing electricity
- disruption of energy production & delivery, damage infrastructure, equipment, power plants, or storage facilities due to sea rise and extreme weather storms,

Reduce efficiency of power production (hot water)
Houses, industry and services construction change
Expensive clean water Need for energy to produce
Competition for domestic and industrial water

3.5°C to 5°C temperature increase means climate change increase need for additional electric generating capacity of 10% to 20% by 2050 requiring billions in investment.
Heat and Atomic Bomb
The effect of Climate Change

With a 1°C increase in global temperature (from 14°C to 15°C) is equivalent to

The accumulated heat in our climate since 1998 is equivalent to heat liberated from 2.8 billion Hiroshima bombs

the heat liberated from explosion of about 300 million Hiroshima of atomic bomb.
Nanotechnology holds massive potential to transform many sectors

Mixing in material (fabric, paint, plastics, polymers, phosphors, drugs)

Embedded in existing devices (memory, transistor, displays)

Coatings (lubrication, solar cells, filters, light effects)

Standalone injection

Most demanding & innovative
Energy Applications of Nano Technology - تطبيقات النانو في الطاقة

Create new nanomaterials - مواد جديدة
Affect thermal & electrical conductivity - خصائص حرارية وكهربائية
Allow hydrogen production and storage - إنتاج وتخزين الهيدروجين

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Popular material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ultra small silicon nano particle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silicon nanowires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TiO₂ particles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pt particles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbon nanotube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conducting polymers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enzyme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More efficient solar power, batteries, fuel cells - تحسين الطاقة الشمسية والبطاريات وخلايا الوقود
More efficient bulbs for lighting - تحسين المصابيح والانارة
More efficient oil exploration and recovery
Nano in my laboratory: Material ST at the limit of size

How Big is a Nano?
- Nano = 1 billionth of a meter;
- 100,000 x’s smaller than the diameter of a human hair.

Seen by scattering light

19,000 km

20 cm

1 nm

1 A

Seen by light luminesce
Very bright
Enhanced Si nano tracers and commercial quantities

A family of magic sizes of hydrogenated Si nanoparticles

No magic sizes > 20 atoms for non-hydrogenated clusters

A new method for creating silicon (Si) nanoparticles has been developed by researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Munir Najeh and his colleagues describe the new electrochemical etching process in their recent paper in Applied Physics Letters (17 Jan 2002), 80 (11), 121122; (4 February 2002), 80 (13), 7649-7651. Partnering Once dried, the aggregates are encapsulated with an acrylic polymer. The researchers find that the aggregates produced in this way exhibit laser oscillation under co excitation by a mercury lamp. Intense, directed Gaussian beams, with standard wall and spot size patterns can be seen, say the researchers. "At 6 pm in diameter, these clusters of particles are one of the

البروفيسور منير نايفة
عالم ذرة - جامعة إلينوي
Enhanced Oil Recovery: Nano composite – encapsulation

Polymer or Silica

Core nano particle Sensing agent

Surface nano particle Solubility agent

Polymer nano particle matrix ~ 100 nm diameter

ARAMCO
KFUPM
National Research Council, Cairo (N. Elhalawany)
Cleveland State
University of Illinois

CENT / KFUPM
(Advisory Board)

Zain Yamani
Su-Tong Yau
Murad Nayfeh
Zhigang & Ishaque Khan

NanoSi
Nano-PANI conducting polymer composite material
Paint material on both sides of solid electrolyte
Charging/discharging shows nano adds conductivity to material
Use stack of three sheets to drive LEDs

Replace battery
Super Capacitor Thread

Wearable electronics

Designed

![Graph showing charge and discharge cycles of super capacitor thread]

![Image of super capacitor thread]

![Image of stacked threads]
Biofuel (Renewable) current cell

- Electro-oxidation of ethanol, methanol, and glucose
- Non-precious-metal catalyst
- Low onset potential
- One electron oxidation
- No poisoning of electrode

**Enhanced solar cells:** Nanotechnology boosts performance of solar cells

**Solar cell innovation**

Collaboration with KACST and KSU, Saudi Arabia:

Dr. Turki Al Saud & Mohammad Al Salhi & Abdulrahman Al Muhanna

**Masdar Institute:** Ammar Nayfeh

We integrated thin films of Si nanoparticles prepared *ex-situ* on polycrystalline photovoltaic (PV) Si solar cells.

Power efficiency enhanced by ~60% in UV and 10% in the visible.

Nayfeh, Stuppca, Al Salhi and Al Saud, Patent has been submitted to US office of patents

Stuppca, Alsalhi, AlMuhanna, Al Saud, Nayfeh, APL, 2007
“The fundamental properties of silicon are heavily amenable to change under a variety of processes both naturally occurring or in the laboratory,” notes Munir Nayfeh, Ph.D., professor of physics at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. “This has made silicon useful in diverse fields across history.”
Solution to Energy Security

There is no single solution. Nuclear is not the solution, but a pivotal component.

**Diversification** of supply is a vital component of energy security, but only one of several. A package may include:

1) Oil + natural gas + coal
2) Nuclear: provides steady source
3) Renewable: fill in the gaps, Intermittent
4) Conservation
5) Technology and innovation (nanotechnology): enhanced recovery, discovery, uptake of renewables, conservation

Addressing the effect of climate, wars, and pandemic disease
UK and France have started to coordinate the return to the nuclear energy source
United K-Going back

UK dependency on imported gas expected to rise sharply between now and 2050, to 85%. Shale gas could provide a secure, stable source of energy and help diversify supply. Extraction is less carbon intensive.

The American Petroleum Institute put it, “without fracking, there’d be no American energy renaissance.” With its own gas-rich shale formations, it’s tempting to think this could be Britain, too.

Is Germany next?
The forbidden and the intermitent

Back to the forbidden?:
- Coal
- Fracking
- More Nuclear

A shot in the arm for the Renewables
Processing about 90% of rare metals and 60% of lithium takes place in China

Revenues of renewable and nuclear energy companies would bring "more than 140 billion euros" to the European Union countries

Rise in electricity prices with the increase in gas prices, these companies resell their production at much higher than production costs, which leads to high profits

Lowering Tax
Funds may be redistributed to families and companies at risk

Today, Jeremy Hunt reverses!
Will the Moroccan desert illuminate Britain?

Electrical interconnection project

submarine cables, the longest in the world, and extends from plants of solar and wind energy in Morocco to Britain

calls for a sound management of water resources

With the continuation of the energy crisis...

Huge gigantic projects provide the UK clean energy Kalmim-Wad Noun region. "Gateway to the Desert".

Morocco a magnet for foreign and local investments in renewable energies, solar and wind
Morocco’s King calls for a sound management of water resources amidst an acute water stress
The Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

10.5 GW of renewable generation, 20 GWh of battery storage, a 3.6 GW **high-voltage direct current** interconnector to carry solar wind-generated electricity from Morocco to the UK.

Morocco has **consistent weather, consistent solar** power even in midwinter.

3,800 km (2,400 miles) cable will be the longest undersea power cable and supply up to 7.5% of the UK's electricity consumption.
Energy Transition, Transformation

- Fossil-based to zero-carbon to reduce CO₂
- Carbon Capture and storage
- Electric cars with PV roof, high technology of batteries to store power
- Electrolyzers to extract H₂ from water, and storing H₂ energy

Nanoparticles / nanostructures enhance absorption of light, increase conversion of light to energy, improved thermal storage and transport, convert incident UV radiation to visible to produce more PV electricity

23% increase in efficiency of using Si, InN and Au nanoparticles. show improvement of 25% in short circuit current and reduce the reflection by 2.7%.
كتب حرف “أي” في مختبري بالذرات

Dr. Zain Yamani

النتيجة
Munir Hasan Nayfeh

**Born** in Shwaikah-Tulkarem, Palestine

**Studied in**
- Palestine: Tulkarem, Albireh-Ramallah
- Jordan: Irbid, Amman
- Lebanon: Beirut
- USA: Stanford, California

**Worked in**
- Stanford university, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Yale University, Argonne National Laboratory, Princess Sumayya University, University of Illinois,
Energy security between nuclear, renewable climate, and nano technologies

The time of abundant oil and gas is at an end and the world is entering a stage where finding resources is becoming more “complex” and requiring more money and investment. In fact, energy security is becoming one of the leading issues in the world today, especially when compounded by modern global military and economical wars and acute climate changes as we are presently face. In view of these conditions, great efforts are put to action to find solutions.

Here we argue that there is no single solution for energy security, rather a multi-component solution is more likely. These include oil (+ natural gas + coal), nuclear energy, renewable energy, conservation as well as technology and innovation. Renewables such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and biomass including biofuels constitute potentially very useful components, but they are intermittent. Climate effects and calamities increase consumption and demand, disrupt energy production & delivery, and damage infrastructure, equipment, power plants, or storage facilities.

Technological innovation such as advanced material technologies and nanotechnology, which will bring cost reductions of energy technologies, is destined to be a driver of the uptake of renewable energy sources, conservation, and enhanced oil discovery and recovery. Nuclear energy however is pivotal, and we believe that there can be no real security without nuclear energy to provide a steady energy component. Finally, true security lies in the “stability of the energy market” for all participants, importer and exporters, rather than the narrowly defined interest of any one country.
Oil & gas supplies will struggle to keep up with demand

making energy prices more expensive and more volatile

A lot of volatility ahead of us that we cannot avoid

[Peter Voser, the chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell, the head of Europe’s largest oil company, has warned in Financial Times on Sep 21, 2011]
Nuclear proliferation problem, use of SMR to create weapons is a concern. As SMRs have lower generation capacity and are physically smaller, they are deployed in many more locations than conventional plants. Guards SMRs are expected to (i) substantially reduce staffing levels, which creates physical protection and security concerns. (ii) SMRs use low-enriched uranium (< 20% fissile 235U). This is sub-weapons-grade uranium for weapons production. (iii) Once irradiated, becomes highly radioactive and requires special handling, preventing casual theft. (iv) SMR are designed for one-time fueling, eliminating on-site nuclear fuel handling sealed within the reactor. However, this design requires large amounts of fuel, which could make it a more attractive target. A 200 MW\textsubscript{e} 30-year core life light water SMR could contain about 2.5 tonnes of plutonium at end of life. (v) Light-water reactors designed to run on thorium offer increased proliferation resistance compared to the conventional uranium cycle, though molten salt reactors have a substantial risk. (vi) SMR factories reduce access, because the reactor is fueled before transport, instead of on the ultimate site.
Drawbacks of shale oil

Each gas well requires ~ **400 tanker trucks** to carry water and supplies.

It takes **1-8 million gallons of water** to complete each fracturing job.

Up to **600 chemicals** are used in fracking fluid, including known carcinogens and toxins such as lead, uranium, mercury, ethylene glycol, radium, methanol, hydrochloric acid, formaldehyde.

**Left Behind**

*Only 30-50% of the fracturing fluid is recovered, not biodegradable.*

**Contamination**

*methane gas & toxic chemicals* leach out & contaminate groundwater. Methane concentrations are **17x higher** in drinking-water wells near fracturing sites than in normal wells.

**Drinking Water**

1,000 documented cases of water contamination next to areas of gas drilling as well as cases of health problems

**The Math**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active gas wells in the US</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallons of water per fracking</td>
<td>8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times a well can be fracked</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total gallons of water needed to run our current gas wells</td>
<td>72 trillion gallons of water and 360 billion gallons of chemicals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Produces approximately 300,000 barrels of natural gas a day**
World use of Nuclear Power

Can play a crucial purpose in the 21st century in aiding to attain global energy security, fight global climate change and bring down air pollution.

China plans to build up its nuclear capabilities to > 40 million kilowatts by 2020. This year, building of six new reactors accompanied by with another five in 2010.

60 countries showed interest in using atomic energy, up from the currently 30.

Global In 2007, atomic power’s share of global electricity dropped to 14%.

The US produces the most nuclear energy, with atomic power providing 19% of the electricity it consumes. France produces the highest percentage of electrical energy from nuclear reactors – 78% as of 2006.

European Union as a whole, nuclear energy provides 30% of the electricity.

In the US, while the coal and gas electricity is projected to be worth $85 billion by 2013, nuclear power generators are forecast to be worth $18 billion.
Strong Intellectual Property Rights

Twenty six US Patent Applications

- 23 US issued
- 2 US pending

2 patents (issued)
1 patents (pending)
with Zain Yamani, KFUPM / CENT, Saudi Arabia

1 patent with PolyBrite Lighting
1 patent with Dow Chemical

1 patent (pending) with Dr. Laila Abuhassan, Jordan
1 patent (pending) with Dr. Hanan Malkawi, Jordan
2 patents (pending) with Dr. Olayan, Ghamdi, Rokayan; Dwayyan & Salhi, KSU, S Arabia
1 patent pending with Drs. M. Alsalhi and T. AlSaud, S. Arabia
Alleviating global warming: green house gases (GHG)

Reaching zero emissions by 2060

States that had a large share in accumulating a lot of GHG

innovative solutions to low-income countries with a high population

Must offer/provide great technical financial
**Photo Voltaic Heat Island (PVHI)**

- Solar PV may be a contributor to global warming (so called Heat Island (PVHI))
- Simultaneously monitoring three locations (a natural desert ecosystem, a parking lot surrounded by commercial buildings, and a PV power plant) for one full year
- Temperatures over the PV plant are higher by 3°C to 4°C than the natural desert ecosystem (wildland) at night.

**Overcome PVHI heating**

White color to have higher albedo

Supports of PV systems made of low specific heat capacity material (wood for example)
Impact of Climate on Renewable Energy

Random and uncertain

Hydropower & wind energy, are uncertain; declines/increases in different regions, solar power are unaffected.

Direct & indirect effects on renewable energy.

Higher wind speeds increase wind power (direct).

Higher temperature lower PV & CSP efficiencies (indirect) more complex relationship between precipitation changes and hydropower potential.

Complex optimization in hydropower design, hub height in wind turbines, and to a less extent is PV and CSP.

Climate change affects global markets. To face growing climate risks, energy companies integrate climate risk into business strategy (72%).
The bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan August 6, 1945, at 8:15 AM.

A B-29 dropped the bomb from 31,000 feet.

The bomb exploded about 1,500 feet above city.

A force of 15,000 tons of TNT.
Behind each material and its functionalities, there are atoms and their interactions, then molecules and their association and then self-assembly at long scale generating a variety of structured species responsible for plenty of functionalities. It is a mix of physics and chemistry and the final material finds its application in several fields encompassing biology, medicine, pharmacy, electronics and spintronic and other sectors, where material science play a crucial role.

The presentation will focus on a generic route for structuring matter at nanoscale with various sizes, shapes and functionalities. Selected applications in biology, medicine and material science will be exposed.

* m.bousmina@ueuromed.org ; m.bousmina@academiesciences.ma
M. Bousmina

Bricklaying at nanoscale

Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes
Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology
Morocco
Outline

1. Fabrication  (Physical Chemistry)

2. Applications
   i)  Carbone Nanotubes:  Appl. Cancer cells  (Bio)
   ii) Organic Nanotubes:   Appl. Spinal cord   (Medical)

3. Graphene/polymer  nanocomposites
   Piezoelectric  material  (Physics:  Electro-mechanics)
Self-Assembly and micelle templating

- OH
- NH₂⁺
- COOH
- Ions

Hydrophilic

Hydrophobic

-(CH₂)⁻

Water

Oil

Langmuir (Nobel Prize 1932)

Agnes Pockes
1862-1935
Self-Assembly and micelle templating

Dannumah, Bousmina & Kaliaguine
Dannumah, Bousmina et al.
Bousmina & Kaliaguine; Int. Patent (2007) 7989527
Katir,, Kadib, & Bousmina
Current Organic Chemistry, 15, 33544-3553 (2011)
Kadib & Bousmina

Vaudreuil & Bousmina, Microporous & mesoporous Mat. 46, 475 (2001).
Vaudreuil, Bousmina & Kaliaguine ADVANCED MATERIALS 13,1321 (2001)
Danumah, & Bousmina. Microporous & mesoporous Mat. 46, 356 (2001)
Tuning pore size dimensions

Applications:

1. Membranes for filtration
   - Water and other solvents
   - Dialysis

2. Chromatography
3. Lasers
4. Catalysis

Specific surface area: 1100 m²/g
Nanoscale, 5, 2850-2856 (2013)
New Route for CNT Synthesis

C$_2$H$_2$ $\rightarrow$ 2C + H$_2$

Nano-mesoporous material

Catalyst in framework

J. of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology 9, 4880-4885 (2009)
Grown Carbon Nanotubes

- \( \text{C}_2\text{H}_2 \) as carbon source
- Synthesis temperature: 700°C
- Vertical or horizontal furnace

TEM

MWCNT, \( D \sim 14 \) nm

SP\(^2\)

SWCNT, \( D \sim 2-5 \) nm
Home made CNT production line: Control Panel

- Mass Flow Controllers
- Relay for Dual Cal (x2)
- Acquisition System

- Fully Automated
- Numerous experiments at once
Nanosprings & Nanosolenoids

Nitrogen can be inserted within the graphene lattice
High electron mobility

Unique relativistic Properties

\[ V = 10^6 \text{ m/s} \]

Combination of \( s \) and \( p \): Hybridation \( sp^x \)

Diamond

\[ 1S^2 1\sigma^4 \]

Graphene

\[ 1S^2 1\sigma^3 \pi^1 \]

B. Drissi, H. Saidi & M. Bousmina, J. Mathematical Physics. 52, 022306 (2011)
B. Drissi, H. Saidi & M. Bousmina, Nuclear Physics, 3, 523-533 (2010)
Nechanism of NS formation

1. Insertion of Nitrogen into substitutional graphene sites

- **5% N**: $C\; sp^2$
- **15% N**: $N\; sp^2$

X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy

Simulations

Cigare Roll up

Only three involved electrons
Nechanism of NS formation

2. Pentagonal-Heptagonal defects                   curvature in the graphene sheet

C\textsubscript{6} \rightarrow C\textsubscript{2} \rightarrow C\textsubscript{7} \rightarrow C\textsubscript{2}H\textsubscript{2}

C5 & C7
Bousmina Ryan: Let’s stretch it daddy
Carbon Nanosprings and Nanosolenoids exposed to laser light: Accordion process

Nanosprings and Nanosolenoids show reversible strain release.

Shape memory nanomaterials

Vaudreuil and Bousmina JNN 9, 4880-4885 (2009).
Outline

1. Fabrication (Physical Chemistry)

2. Applications
   i) Carbone Nanotubes: Appl. Cancer cells (Bio)
   ii) Organic Nanotubes: Appl. Spinal cord (Medical)

3. Graphene/polymer nanocomposites
   Piezoelectric material (Physics: Electro-mechanics)
Immune cells of peripheral blood:

* B cells
* Tαβ cells
* NKT cells
* Tγδ cells

**NK Cells**: Natural killer cells (or NK cells) are a type of cytotoxic lymphocyte that constitute a major component of the innate immune system.

With age: decrease in

- Number
- Efficiency & specificity
- Mobility

Collaboration with Prof. J. P. Majoral LCC Toulouse (France).
First neutral phosphorus dendrimers (divergent synthesis)

**First Step**

\[ \text{Core} \rightarrow \text{THF, } 0^\circ \text{C} \rightarrow -3 \text{NaCl} \]

**Second Step**

\[ \text{MeS}_2\text{Cl} \rightarrow \text{CHCl}_3, \text{R.T.} - 3 \text{H}_2\text{O} \]

**Repetition of the First Step**

\[ \text{Generation 1} \rightarrow + 6\text{NaO} - \text{CHO} \]

**Repetition of the Second Step**

\[ \text{NH}_2 \rightarrow \text{Generation 2} \]

Kazzouli, Majoral & Bousmina

Ciepluch, Majoral & Bousmina

Lisowska, Caminade & Bousmina
Molecular Pharmaceutics. 9, 448-457 (2012)

EL Katib, Katir & Bousmina

El Kazzouli, Mignani & Bousmina

Katir, Majoral, & Bousmina.
NK+Dendrimer+CNS

Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews (2013):
Outline

1. Fabrication (Physical Chemistry)

2. Applications
   
   i) Carbone Nanotubes: Appl. Cancer cells (Bio)
   
   ii) Organic Nanotubes: Appl. Spinal cord (Medical)

3. Graphene/polymer nanocomposites
   
   Piezoelectric material (Physics: Electro-mechanics)
Hierarchy in Self-assembly of Rosette Nanotubes

G: Guanidine
C: Cytosine

Attachment of functional groups

Formation of disc-helical structure by hydrogen bonding: **Hexamers (rosettes)**

Stacking of the discs via $\pi-\pi$ interactions

**Organic Nanotubes**
**Rosettes Nanotubes**

1995-1997
Post-docs
Pinet, Dannumah
Laval University.

Prof. Hicham Fenniri
Alberta University
Spinal Cord Repair: PHPMA/Rosette Nanotube


Outline

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   Piezoelectric material (Physics: Electro-mechanics)
Graphene/Polymer Piezoelectric materials

**Direct effect**

Input: stress

Output: Piezoelectric material

Density of charge: $D_i = d_{ijk} \sigma_{jk}$

Piezoelectric coefficient: $E$

**Inverse effect**

Input: Strain

Output: Piezoelectric material

Piezoelectric coefficient: $E$

Strain: $S_{ij} = d_{kij} E_k = d^{-1}_{kij} E_k$

**Equations**

- $d_{33} = \frac{\partial D_3}{\partial \sigma_3} = \frac{\partial S_3}{\partial E_3}$
Motivation:

Fiso-technologies: Quebec-Canada

Piezoelectric Actuator

- Piezoelectric Coefficient $> 650 \text{ pC/N}$
- Modulus $< 150 \text{ MPa}$
- Density $< 0.85$

Cellular Polymer/Polar filler

Polymer/Graphene Nanocomposites
Piezoelectric cellular PP film

PP

Ionised gas

Stress \rightarrow \Delta\text{Polarisation}

\[ V \]

\[ \]
Piezoelectric cellular PP films

Film Extrusion → bi-axial stretching → Inflation by the diffusion of Gas

CaCO₃ 10μm Micro dipole

Electrically charging

Metalization

Q = Q̅d

JAPS. 123, 3425–3436 (2012)
Biaxial stretching

Electromechanical Modelling

\[ S_i = s_{ij} \sigma_j + d^t_{im} E_m \]

\[ D_m = d_{mj} \sigma_j + e_{mn} E_n \]

\[ d_{33} = \frac{\Delta D_0}{\Delta \sigma} \]

\[ h_2 = P \cdot h = \sum h_{2i} \]

\[ h_1 = (1 - P) \cdot h = \sum h_{1i} \]

\[ h_1 + h_2 = h \]

Gauss-Kirchhoff Law

\[ D_0 = \frac{\varepsilon \cdot P}{(1 - P + \varepsilon \cdot P)} \cdot < D_i > \]

\[ < D_i > = \frac{1}{n - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} D_i \]

Prototype of the acoustic and displacement piezoelectric actuators

Dielectric coefficient (pC/N) of PP/GN as a function of time (min)

Target +250 pC/N

International patent (2014)

Piezoelectric transducer
### Nature

**Silica**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Shape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Lanthanides</em></td>
<td>La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actinides</strong></td>
<td>Ac, Th, Pa, U, Np, Pu, Am, Cm, Bk, Cf, Es, Fm, Md, No, Lr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Concluding Remarks

**Diameter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cs</th>
<th>Ba</th>
<th><strong>Hf</strong></th>
<th>Ta</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>Re</th>
<th>Os</th>
<th>Ir</th>
<th>Pt</th>
<th>Au</th>
<th><strong>Hg</strong></th>
<th>Thallium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>225</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Image credits: © Georges Dolisi*
Modulation of the fluorescence color

quantum dots: color ⇔ size

nanodots: color ⇔ composition

→ Choice of the fluorophores compatible with the confinement
In vivo multiphotonic imaging

2D Projection

Muscle tissue of the vascular system of tadpole visualized with hydrosoluble green nanodot.

(injection : 0.1 pmol)

Excitation: 900 nm
Detection: 530 nm

3D Representation

SHG myosine (muscle)

TPEF nanodot (vessels)

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda is an unprecedented effort that embodies universal aspirations for a better, more just, equitable, peaceful, and sustainable future. The SDGs agenda provides a framework that fosters collaboration across countries, mobilizes all stakeholders and inspires action. It invites us to accept and embrace comprehensiveness and interconnectedness.

Growing global concerns over water resources, are closely reflected in the SDGs, not only in terms of SDG 6 which specifically addresses water resources (the ‘Water Goal’), but also in recognizing that water affects the entire development agenda. Water connects us all. Water is the gossamer that links the web of the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets. No longer can water be addressed as a separate element in isolation from the other goals. But this interconnectedness has important implications. It means that the Water Goal will only be achieved if the other goals are attained, and in turn, that other SDGs will only be achieved if the Water Goal is attained.

The question thus arises: are our current approaches to managing water still valid in the context of the SDGs? Delivering the SDGs vision requires setting in motion new strategies governing the way we all live and interact with our environment in order to ensure that there will be enough water to support, rather than constrain, development and inclusive well-being.
ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT & DEVELOPMENT FOR WATER: REALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS VISION

Mohamed AIT KADI
Resident Member
Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology

October 18th 2022
Q1 Why water security is a global concern?

Q2 What is the dynamic of water security and sustainable development?

Q3 What tools do we need to enable effective and sustainable use of water resources?
Q1 Why water security is a global concern?

Q2 What is the dynamic of water security and sustainable development?

Q3 What tools do we need to enable effective and sustainable use of water resources?
The Water Challenge

Breakdown of water-use data. a, Global water-use by region. b, Water used across different sectors.
BOTH SUPPLY AND DEMAND PRESSURES LEAD TO WATER STRESS AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

### Demand pressures

- **Population growth**
  - Increased domestic / urban use
  - Increased food demand
- **Economic growth**
  - Increased urban water use
  - Increased industrial water use
  - More water-intensive diets
- **Climate change**
  - Increased crop water demand
  - More reservoir evaporation

### Supply pressures

- **Spatial / temporal mismatch** between supply and demand
- **More expensive supply curve** to transport water
- **Continued water quality deterioration**
- **Climate change pressures**
  - Reduced availability with increased intensity
  - Increase in frequency and intensity of extreme events → damage to infrastructure & unreliable supply
  - In some cases, decline in renewable water

### Impacts of Water Stress

- Localized ground water overdraft
- Pressures on ecosystems (quantity and quality impacts)
- Impact on cost and viability of activities, and increased competition across water-using sectors
- Economic / political conflict
- **Risk to Growth**
Water Security = A Global Concern

« As the global economy grows, so will its thirst. This is not an issue of rich or poor, north or south. All regions are experiencing the problem of water stress. There is still enough water for all of us – but only so long as we keep it clean, use it more wisely and share it fairly. Gouvernements must engage and lead, and the private sector also has a role to play in this effort. »

Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
UN, New York
Humanity is facing « water bankruptcy » as a result of a crisis even greater than the financial meltdown now destabilizing the global economy ... it is already beginning to take effect, and there will be no way of bailing the earth out of water scarcity ...

G. Lean, The Independent, 15 March 2009
Water Security and Interconnected Risks
SDG6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and at least doubling recycling and safe reuse globally

6.4 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and at least doubling recycling and safe reuse globally

6.5 By 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary co-operation as appropriate

6.6 By 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

6.6a By 2030, expand international co-operation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

6.6b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities for improving water and sanitation
| Q1 | Why water security is a global concern? |
| Q2 | What is the dynamic of water security and sustainable development? |
| Q3 | What tools do we need to enable effective and sustainable use of water resources? |
Framing the Water Security Dynamic

- Sustainable growth, wealth & human well-being are at the core
- Focuses on the interplay between:
  - water endowments (water availability & variability)
  - water security investments
  - growth/wealth/well-being
- Recognizes that a country’s water endowment influences the nature & level of investment needed to achieve water security
WATER ENDOWMENTS MATTER

COUNTRIES WITH SIMPLE HYDROLOGIES & HIGH INVESTMENTS IN WATER SECURITY HAVE HIGH INCOMES

Basins with population > 2 million
Colors reflect GDP per capita
Horizontal axis = hydrological complexity
Vertical axis = investment in water security (storage, institutions, information)
Relative economic impacts of water insecurity
THE CASE OF MOROCCO

Morocco is a highly water stressed country with erratic rainfall and frequent droughts. The country is reaching the end of the water development era. Water resources management is therefore shifting to the more difficult task of ensuring economically, socially and environmentally efficient water allocation within the existing water resources constraints.
MOBILISATION & USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Total Expenditures (Investment + O&M) US$

- Potable water & Sanitation
- Hydroelectricity
- Mobilisation

1,6 Millions Ha

Expenditures US$

- Total: 1,6 Millions Ha
- 149
- 13
ISSUES & CONSTRAINTS

Decline of water resources

Annual rainfall (mm) 1961-2016
DIVERSIFYING SOURCES OF SUPPLY THROUGH REUSE & DESALINATION
COUNT EVERY DROP - EVRY DROP COUNTS!

MORE CROP PER DROP
MORE JOB PER DROP
MORE DH PER DROP
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Why water security is a global concern?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>What is the dynamic of water security and sustainable development?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>What tools do we need to enable effective and sustainable use of water resources?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increasing our knowledge about water resources as a system

- Complex Climate Relations
- Multiple-Aquifer Stresses
- GW/SW Relations
- Multiple-Aquifer Flow Systems & Flow Directions
- Regional Flow Systems
- Discharge from transboundary flow
- Recharge contributing to transboundary flow
- Transboundary flow direction
- Local flow systems
- 3D bulk flow

Modified from Puri & Arnold, 2002
➢ Developing water system modeling techniques and the monitoring systems and data collection to validate them

Process oriented models

Planning oriented models
Remote sensing

Modelling of linear hydrography

Drone with Lidar
BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT FUNCTION WITHIN INCREASING COMPLEXITY, CUTTING ACROSS SECTORAL SILOS AND SOVEREIGN BOUNDARIES
CONCLUSION

- The size of today’s water security challenge should not be underestimated.
- While the scale and complexity of this multidimensional challenge are huge, solutions are within reach.
- Understanding the connectivity between the multiple dimensions of water security is a critical step in effective policy design, policy implementation, and consensus building.
A HISTORICAL CHALLENGE

“RIVAL” PROCEEDS FROM LATÍN "RIVALIS", WHICH MEANS “THOSE THAT SHARE A RIVER“
Finally: the Water Challenge is mainly an opportunity…

…to innovate, to invest, to become economically and societally savvy, smart and just, and to ascertain our sustainable future…
The Post COVID-19 Higher Education: Lessons from a Pandemic

Adnan Badran1 FIAS
Chancellor of the University of Petra and
the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Jordan
Joelle Mesmar2 and Elias Baydoun3 FIAS

Abstract

In December 2019, an outbreak of pneumonia cases with unknown etiology was reported in Wuhan, China. It had then quickly spread to other provinces with more and more patients having fever and cough symptoms. Within a few weeks, a novel coronavirus was identified by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and named as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). The World Health Organization called the illness associated with this infection as “coronavirus infectious diseases 2019 (COVID-19) and on June 27, 2021, it was declared a pandemic, as the virus spread across the globe, reaching 210 countries and territories with 181 million confirmed cases and over 3.9 million deaths.

In April 2020, the number of students staying at home due lockdown measures implemented by their educational institutions reached 1.598 billion in 194 countries. Such lockdown has forced these institutions to switch to online pedagogy. In developing countries, and among them the Arab world, this has exposed inequalities and challenges, such as uneven distribution of internet connectivity between urban and rural areas, with some poor areas not able to afford even the price of the hardware. Students and teachers were not well trained and equipped for online and virtual education. And schooling and campus social life was missed and the student’s psychology under online pedagogy may have changed human behavior, which needs to be studied further by social scientists. As for academic conferences, these were postponed, cancelled or carried out online using various platforms.

There is no doubt that online learning has saved the educational sector from disaster. However, after the pandemic, the style of educational pedagogy will be changed, and will not be business as usual.

New learning process will be emerged from face to face to electronics and distance learning. This pedagogy would lead to blended interactive resilient learning to stimulate the minds and thoughts of students toward a challenging future.

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2 Department of Biology, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon. E-mail: jm104@aub.edu.lb
3 Department of Biology, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon. E-mail: eliasbay@aub.edu.lb
1 Introduction

What it is the purpose of higher education? What is the value of higher education? What is the core mission of higher education? These are questions that today’s students, faculty, staff, policy makers and stakeholders in the higher-education sector are most likely asking themselves.

Although the higher-education sector is often described as rigid and resistant to change, the history of higher education points to continuous transformation. At different points of time, the purpose of higher education has taken on a variety of angles. Higher education institutions first targeted a single stratum of society: the elite and the privileged, focusing primarily on religious and theological education, literature and philosophy, mainly designed to nurture the mind as well as preparing students for leading roles in government and learned professions, such as divinity, law and medicine. Then as the number of students increased and higher education institutions expanded, accompanied by a massification in enrollments, staff and faculty recruitments, and institutional infrastructure and disciplines, higher education started its transformation into mass higher education, in order to be able to cater for a broader range of students with a broader age group and range of functions. With this growth, the purpose of higher education shifted from mainly the shaping of character to the preparation of technical elite roles through the transmission of technical knowledge. Today, the higher education sector entered a third phase, described as the universal phase and designed for universal access, which was facilitated by technology, consequently breaking the boundaries of institutions, and increasing diversity and collaborations.[2,1]

While the higher education sector transformed from the diffusion of bookish knowledge and training to the advancement of knowledge through critical thinking and research, Newman argued that teaching and research should be separated, and that higher education should be about liberal education for “the achievement of a particular expansion of outlook, turn of mind, habit of thought, and capacity for social and civic interaction”.[3] “Clearly, the purpose and functions of higher education have been long debated, and one cannot deny that the higher education sector witnessed great transformation“ .This great transformation is regretted by some, accepted by many, gloried in, as yet, by few. But it should be understood by all.[4]”

Nowadays, the definition of the purpose of higher education is a non-compulsory learning stage that occurs beyond high school, with the main aim to prepare students to become professionals and effective citizens. At the core of higher education institutions there are three major missions: (1) to educate, (2) to generate new knowledge through research, and (3) to engage with the community and contribute to the development of society by providing public service.[5] In other words, higher education institutions aim to prepare students to join the workforce by teaching subjects that are required to tackle the society’s needs and challenges, ultimately contributing to social mobility and economic growth.

From the student’s perspective, enrolling into university is often seen as the next obvious step and a means to enter the labor market. This vocational orientation towards learning places the student as the customer of a service provided by the university. The downside of such orientation is that the students become passive and tend of focus on having a degree regardless of learning or their responsibilities towards society. However, with a growing number of students seeking higher education and the addition of non-traditional cohorts such as full-time working adults and part-time students who have different characteristics and educational needs, the student body has become increasingly diverse with consequently diverse needs and purposes. Yet the reality is different. With higher education institutions still mostly geared towards the traditional type students as a “one-size-fits-all” model, offering overcrowded and fragmented curriculum
that remiss about the vocational and personal development of students, there is a pressing need to adjust the purpose of higher education to meet the requirements of a growing and diverse student body. A student body that is still seen as a customer, rather than a learner, of an institution-centered provider.

As from the society’s perspective, the lack of investment in higher education can have dire consequences, negatively impacting the country’s economic growth and participation in the global knowledge economy, mainly due to lack of investment in the country’s human capital resulting in loss of talent through brain drain, poor research activity because of limited access to facilities and capacity for solving local problems.

Over the last 50 years, the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Region (MENA), have made great progress in improving enrollment rates and gender parity at all education levels. Until 1953, there were only 14 public and private Arab universities in the Arab world, most of them as very old or foreign institutions. Today there are over 800 universities, associated with an expansion in student enrollments, mainly fueled by an exponentially growing population with a high youth composition and the recognition of the importance of higher education for social and economic development. However the gap between the educational output and labor market demands and development needs is still growing. Young citizens in the region feel that higher education only serves them to get credentials without offering links or relevance to the labor market. While Arab countries vary in the political, economic and social challenges they face, they all suffer from this disconnect and are not conducive of critical thinking. Years of conflict and instability in many countries of the region have further exacerbated this situation, failing to meet the demands of a large growing young population and leading to more and more isolation of the Arab countries from global knowledge and progress. Although the region has witnessed many advances, their education system remains the same and is in dire need to transform in order to be able to create the required change.

A higher education sector in crisis is not breaking news. Articles, issues and books on higher education in crisis have been calling repeatedly for change. Looking at a past with various challenges, and having survived with relatively little institutional change, will the higher education sector’s response to the COVID-19 crisis be any different? During an interview with Forbes magazine in 1997 discussing the escalating cost of education and the rise of the “internet mania”, management guru Peter Drucker had said that the current setup for higher education is “doomed” and predicted that “thirty years from now the big university campuses will be relics. Universities won’t survive. It’s as large a change as when we first got the printed book.” Will higher education embrace this opportunity and respond accordingly by making the necessary adjustments and adopting sensible reforms for building an effective educational system that actually meets the needs of students and society? Will higher education embrace change in its purpose to become relevant? Will these changes be coupled with a transformation at the institutional level and improvements in governance structures, curriculum, pedagogical delivery, educational technologies, and interactions between the various stakeholders involved?

Only time will tell.
2 The COVID-19 Pandemic

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is the most recently discovered type of coronaviruses which causes respiratory infections. When first detected in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of the Hubei province in China, it was described as “pneumonia of unknown cause”. On 11 February 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced “COVID-19” as the name of the disease caused by the 2019-nCoV virus and the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses renamed it as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). By the first week of March 2020, the virus had reached over 100 countries with over 100,000 cases, causing a global outbreak and becoming a major public health issue. [11] A year later, there were 115 million confirmed cases and over 2.5 million deaths globally. [12]

Outbreaks occur when the number of disease cases in a community rises suddenly above the expected occurrence in a defined community, geographic area or season. While epidemics consist of outbreaks in specific geographical areas without necessarily being contagious, pandemics occur when the disease grows exponentially, crossing geographical boundaries and affecting several populations. The disease is then declared a pandemic by the WHO, regardless of its severity and population immunity, but rather based on its rate of spread and transmission.[13]

The COVID-19 outbreak is not the first disease that shook the world. The Black Death (1346-1353) was a highly contagious disease that was caused by the bacillus Yersina Pestis in the Afro-Eurasia region, and which claimed over 20 million lives in a period of about five years before running its course in the early 1350s, with some estimates reaching 200 million. [14] Symptoms included severe aches, fever, vomiting, swelling of the lymph nodes and black pustules on the skin, causing death within three days. The Black Death (also known as the Plague) caused major terror and uncertainty around the world leading to social and religious upheavals, with many describing the pandemic as “God’s punishment”. The Plague also had profound economic consequences. This may have given incentives for innovation, such as the shift of labor-intensive grain farming to animal husbandry, mainly fueled by lack of cheap labor due to the death of countless workers. Efforts to contain the disease included social distancing and isolation of sailors on their ships for initially a period of 30 days, which was then increased to 40 days (hence the origin of the term “quarantine”) practices that are still applied today. Later during the modern industrial age, the expansion of new transportation routes facilitated the spread of influenza viruses causing the Flu Pandemic (1889-1990); within a few months the earlier cases reported in Russia had wreaked havoc worldwide, killing around 1 million people. The Spanish Flu (1918-1920), also referred to as the 1918 influenza pandemic, was caused by the H1N1 influenza virus. It was considered the most severe in recent history, infecting over 500 million people, equivalent to one third of the world’s population at the time, and killing at least 50 million sparing no age group, especially the youth. Then came the Asian Flu (1958-1957) another influenza pandemic, which started in China and claimed over 1 million lives worldwide due to infections with avian flu viruses. [15] The cousin of the H1N1 virus resurfaced again in 2009 announcing the swine flu pandemic, which has touched over 60 million people in the United States alone and caused an estimated 575,400-151,700 deaths worldwide. [16] Some pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, which has claimed over 35 million lives so far since the first infections by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) virus were discovered in 1981, are still ongoing today. Although a cure has not been found yet, the disease is no longer as deadly and infected people can have normal life expectancies because of new medications developed in addition to prevention and treatment strategies.[17]

Looking at such a history of pandemics, one cannot deny that the warning signs were there. The number of infectious diseases and outbreaks have been increasing with time, in line with a growing population,
global trade networks, travel and globalization. The era of the Anthropocene, our newest present day geological epoch during which human activity is significantly impacting the Earth’s ecosystems, climate and geology, is becoming the “pandemic era.” The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board had issued in September 2019 its first annual report, “A World at Risk”, with the aim to accelerate the preparedness of the world for health emergencies and threats focusing first on biological risks, and drawing on lessons learned from previous outbreaks such as the 2009 swine flu pandemic and the Ebola virus disease. The report warned that “there is a very real threat of a rapidly moving, highly lethal pandemic of a respiratory pathogen killing 50 to 80 million people and wiping out nearly 5% of the world’s economy”, stressing that the world would be unprepared for a global pandemic. As a matter of fact, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted even more how interconnected the world has become, how quickly a contagious disease could spread, and how fast an outbreak could turn into a catastrophe. This pandemic proved that not only the world was clearly unprepared for such an environmental threat but that it was also divided and politicized in its response strategies. Leaders around the world have responded differently to the threat, and the “Prozac leadership” type emerged, which encourages leaders and their administrations to be positive, all the while denying the bad news, ending up with a distorted picture of the reality, impinging on the actions and responses taken towards public health policy. It states that “excessive positivity constitutes a significant barrier to reflection and learning. By silencing critical voices, Prozac leadership has hindered our leaders’ response to the pandemic.”

This is where the relationship between science and politics has been severely strained and where the value of science and expert advice have often been decried, from the initial stages of the pandemic to vaccine development. Around the world, scientific advisers and committees have been attacked, questioned, criticized, and held responsible for creating an economic crisis, and increasing poverty and unemployment. Following science to set policy is not a straightforward matter, but rather a breeding ground for bias and conspiracies. Where science and politics intersect, it is the idea that fits best or that suits certain purposes that survives. For example in the UK, as COVID-19 was declared a high consequence infectious disease (HCID), it was later downgraded without prior expert consultation, until it was eventually removed from the HCID list. The reason for such political decisions takes its origin in the unpreparedness of the government and its underestimation of the situation and medical requirements, which was translated into a shortage of protective personal equipment such as medical gowns, visors, respiratory masks, and even swabs for testing the ill and body bags for the dead, not to mention the saturation of hospitals and the need for ventilators. Countries in the Arab world were of course not spared from such situations. COVID-19 had covered all the Arab world by April 2020. While the countries in the region differed in their response strategies, most adopted strict lockdown measures in an effort to curb infection spread and prevent overwhelming the medical systems. These measures included: applying social distancing protocols; closing schools and universities; shutting down malls, shops, restaurants and cafes; suspending employee attendance; closing ports, airports and restricting travel; and banning enclosed prayer places and gatherings. Other countries went for the herd immunity strategy, putting priority on saving a collapsing economy. In fact, the socio-economic fallout of the pandemic in the region is very heavy. A loss of USD 420 billion in market capital was reported by April 2020, equivalent to 8% of the region’s total wealth. And Arab youth unemployment peaked to 23%, the highest in the world. Until mid-2020, containment efforts in the region were successful compared to the rest of the world and death rates were low, mainly due to a relatively young population. However, as lockdown measures were lifted, infection rates started rising exponentially, with more than 2.2 million cases by the end of the same year. The health sector in the various Arab countries has also been put under tremendous strain. In Syria for example, a decade of war has left the sector crippled with only 64% of hospitals and 52% of primary health care centers fully functional. Other conflict-affected countries such as Iraq, Libya, Yemen and the Palestinian Authority follow suit.
However this pandemic is not all foreboding. It could be an opportunity for Arab leaders and stakeholders to tackle indelible issues such as updating an outdated and weak healthcare infrastructure, investing in science and technology, and promoting innovation. Additionally, revisiting the education system and investing in research and development should be an important long-term strategic goal for the region to reduce inequalities and provide opportunities for the Arab young population.

3 The COVID-19 Educational Response: Maslow before Bloom

The COVID-19 pandemic has left no one spared and touched all domains of life. Education is of course one that has been hit hard, forcing higher education institutions to confront problems and issues they have long shirked. Experts and critics claim this is the crisis the higher education sector needs, hoping the disruption this pandemic has caused to education will be more than just a blip on the long-run, but rather an opportunity to reset and to re-imagine the purpose and operations of the whole sector.

3.1 Immediate measures

The pandemic came as an unexpected storm. With cases skyrocketing all over the globe, just a few months after the virus had taken over China, higher education had to react swiftly. With fear, anxiety and uncertainty in the air, it is “Maslow before Bloom” when it comes to learning and academic success; in other words, the students’ needs and well-being come first and are essential for educational attainment. So first came the decision to close higher education institutions, a measure that was part of the social distancing and confinement protocols adopted by China and recommended by the WHO to contain the virus. According to UNESCO by 1 April 2020, 89.4% of enrolled students were affected by the closure of schools and higher education institutions, amounting to 1.5 billion learners worldwide. Generally institutions closed completely for a short break, suspending all campus-activities and announcing extra holidays and vacations, in order to prepare the necessary measures for remote learning. Such measures included changes to the curricula, setting up technical infrastructures, platforms and educational tools. Learners and educators had no choice but to transition and adapt quickly from traditional face-to-face teaching to virtual education. In Europe for example, most universities closed their campuses as of March 2020 and 95% of universities shifted to distance learning.

All countries in the Arab world initially applied the same measures. However the impact of the pandemic on education was more negative than other parts of the world and showed how badly the sector is in need for reforms. The absence of proper technical infrastructure and platforms for delivering classes online, over and above the reluctance and unreadiness of faculty to teach online, not to mention limited access to internet and often a non-conducive environment at home, meant that teaching had to be cancelled in many higher education institutions in the Arab countries and that students had to rely on self-study means. Such situation of course is not ideal; it is associated with negative impact on learning and shouldn’t last long. As a matter of fact, institutions who were unable to deliver distance learning either shifted their academic year, postponed graduation, adopted a blended learning approach or had no choice but to re-open their campuses.
3.2 Immediate effects

The current pandemic impacted the enrollment of international students who had to be brought back home, mainly due to imposed travel bans in many areas and closure of dormitories and halls of residence at universities. Those institutions relying on international enrollment for revenue have been heavily affected. Some countries in the region have taken initiatives to retain and attract international students. For example the United Arab Emirates (UAE) issued a new policy that allows new students to sponsor their relatives during the time of their studies .[33] And several Egyptian universities are establishing new branches in other countries in Africa, such as Ain Shams University in Cairo and Tanta University which have signed agreements with Tanzania and Djibouti, respectively .[34]

The pandemic-induced recession also caused a decrease in the enrollment rates of local students, particularly underserved and low-income students as well as non-traditional part-time and working students, which would eventually impact their educational attainment and consequently their future. In the United States, first-year enrollments dropped by 13% in fall 2020 compared to the previous year, with two-year institutions hit the most, accounting for a %18.9 drop. The latter cater mostly for low-income students and nontraditional students. Reasons for dropping out are mainly related to higher education affordability and that the cost of virtual education is not worth the cost. Experts worry that when these students leave higher education, it is very unlikely that they will return.[35] Additionally, during a recession, what is usually observed is an increase in higher education enrollments because the newly unemployed often decide to study again until the economy improves. However this was not the case during the COVID-19 recession. In fact, student enrollment was already on the decline due to rising education cost. Similar trends were observed in the Arab world, where the majority of households have seen a decline in living standards and purchasing power, as has been reported in Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco, with many families unable to pay tuition fees. Financial constraints have also caused students to shift from private universities to public universities in an attempt to lower tuition costs .[32] As for prospective students, admission deadlines were extended in many universities and admission tests were waived. While for new students, their visits and orientations had to be carried out virtually, and graduating students saw their ceremonies cancelled.

The disruption of education and closure of campus have also caused a drop in the auxiliary fees, such as housing, parking, dining, sports facilities, events and other activities. Refunds of fees were also asked for, leaving a gaping hole in the operating revenue. Also universities relying on their hospitals for revenue were also affected as non-essential and selective procedures and visits had to be postponed in order to care for COVID-19 infected patients.

The decrease in government funding has also put a strain on higher education institutions, having its roots in the health crisis and drop in oil prices that the Arab region has been witnessing. This reduction in higher education public funding is also expected to last for the coming few years. As a consequence, financial assistance to students was strongly affected, as government spending had to be re-directed to pressing health needs. Institutional budget cuts were also implemented and translated into a reduction in staff salaries, early retirements, contract freeze and even suspension, elimination of tenure, as well trimming benefits, closing programs, merging departments, and decreasing research funds. In Lebanon, the American University of Beirut, one of the most prestigious and prominent universities in the region, announced it would lay off around 25% of its staff in mid-2020, mostly in administrative positions as it is facing “its greatest crisis since its foundation in 1866”, according to its President.[36]
### 3.3 Immediate challenges

COVID-19 has directly and heavily impacted the teaching and learning processes. Shifting to online modes of education seemed like the immediate panacea to ensure continuity in teaching and learning. Although digitally enhanced learning and teaching has been on the table for higher education reform for years and many education technology tools have been developed or are under development and are slowly being integrated in educational practices, it is COVID-19 that really acted as the catalyst for distance learning. However such sudden change is not without challenging consequences. Stating that online learning is the only way forward would be a dicey prediction.

Although the shift to online teaching and learning has rescued the academic year at the beginning of the pandemic, it has revealed several challenges: the first one on the list is the internet. With this comes not only poor internet connection and penetration, but also access to digital devices and acceptance towards online education, especially in developing countries. In fact, many Arab countries have showed skepticism towards online education pre-COVID-19 and suffer from digital illiteracy, which is observed among both educators and students. [37] Based on International Telecommunication Union (ITU) estimates for 2020, only 54.6% of individuals use the internet and more than half of households don’t have internet at home in the MENA region, with the exception of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (scoring over 90%). [38] There is therefore a great digital divide between countries in the region, which explains the variety of educational strategies adopted in light of the pandemic. Some countries such as Lebanon, Syria and Iraq had to face even more challenges such as electricity cuts, which severely disrupted online sessions and access to educational material, making distance learning difficult. Also in terms of digital divide, a significant gap exists between rural and urban areas, as well as public and private universities, which is likely to exacerbate inequalities between students within the same country and region. [40, 39]

Another challenge students and teachers had to face was online evaluation and examinations, creating a lot of stress and confusion for everyone involved in the process. Examinations are a critical and important part of the learning process, and therefore cancelling them was not an option. Teachers had to create and design proper assessment tools, which were associated with trial and error approaches, to counteract cheating. For this, several universities adopted tools for the detection of any fraudulent activity during an exam, such as ProctorU or Respondus. Of course, this is not without its drawbacks, including weak internet connections – a prevalent issue in the Arab region and privacy concerns among students. Yet, this experience could be seen as an opportunity to re-think traditional approaches as these are still based on 20th-century mindsets, emphasizing on compliance and conformity rather than critical-thinking and creativity, as well as enhancing collaboration and knowledge transfer. Besides, in-person examination is a tedious and costly process with often human error problems. [42, 41]

Knowledge sharing, mobilization and production through networking and collaboration is an essential purpose of academic conferences. By February 2020, in-person conferences around the world were cancelled and shifted online. To replicate the conference experience online is for sure challenging. Though the main purpose people chose to participate in conferences is to create networks, which is an essential characteristic of on-site gatherings, it is often costly and time-consuming. And under-resourced less privileged institutions or academics often miss out on such opportunities. Going online is therefore not without benefits, especially when it comes to convenience, accessibility, visibility and inclusion, which would allow to cater to the needs of a larger and diverse group of academics and researchers. [44, 43] Creating a hybrid format for conferences in the future could be the way forward. Oftentimes, in-person academic conferences are more of a routine than a necessity. In his article on academic conferences after
the pandemic, Dr. Joshua Kim envisions that “in the future, we may see smaller but more resource-intensive (lavish) in-person events. Academics will not travel to an in-person conference unless that event offers benefits far and above what can be gained virtually. This will maybe mean better conferences, with less boring panels and passive talks, and more in the way of opportunities for collaboration and conversation.” [45] An opinion shared by many.

Clearly the pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation of societies, and with it higher education. It underscored the importance of technology and the need for reforms to improve the digital infrastructure and digital literacy among both students and educators. Having faced so many challenges and undertaken a lot of changes in the way education is delivered, the higher education community is now ready to exit the crisis stage, re-think the pre-COVID-19 status, assess the implemented solutions and invest in remote learning in order to plan for a future with quality education, as new challenges will continue to emerge. This will not only mean developing or learning new tools, but working in collaboration internationally to find joint solutions. It will also necessitate a shift in mindset in seeing challenges as opportunities and focusing on change, progress and growth.

4 The Impact of the Pandemic on Various Educational Fields and Activities

The impact of COVID-19 on education differs from one field of study to another. While distance learning was efficient in some areas, it often had many limitations in others. This section provides examples of how the pandemic has effected the educational delivery in different fields, recognizing gaps and reflecting on possible solutions.

4.1 The academic research enterprise

As institutional lockdowns were instigated, eerily empty classrooms together with labs going quiet was a typical scene on campuses in 2020. Apart from essential research including COVID-19-related research, many research programs were suspended worldwide, being a campus-based activity, with laboratories and fieldwork at their core. While educators and staff were given instructions and advice on how to carry on their work remotely, this was not the case when it came to scientific research, especially research requiring heavy equipment in the lab, fieldwork and clinical trials. Having to pause their work, researchers were left confused on how to safeguard their research activities and uncertain about their future. Many have changed their priorities and are assessing new directions [46]. Graduate students were also put in difficult situations, often finding themselves unable to complete their projects due to lab access constraints and funding shortages, consequently having to rethink their degree timelines. Post-docs and young researchers were the most vulnerable among the research cohort, as their career progression was put at stake [48, 47].

As labs had to be closed for some time and access was limited to carry out only critical activities such as maintaining cell lines and looking after animals, many scholars shifted their priorities to COVID-19-related research; all the while “non-essential” research has slowed down. A bibliometric analysis of the COVID-19 global research output showed that from December 2019 to March 2021 there were over 140,000 publications worldwide [49]. The Arab world's contribution during that period constituted only 4.26%,
with mostly original journal articles and reviews related to: “public health and epidemiology; immunological and pharmaceutical research; signs, symptoms and clinical diagnosis; and virus detection.” Saudi Arabia (35.65%) was in the top of the list followed by Egypt (20.78%) and the UAE (11.73%). When taking into consideration population size and GDP, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Lebanon were placed in the lead. These publications were the result of collaborative work with mostly the United States and the United Kingdom.

The impact of the pandemic on academic research is without any doubt challenging. However, the virus created a state of urgency and a matter of survival that catalyzed collaborations and accelerated the pace of research and innovation. The development of the COVID-19 vaccine is an example of unprecedented and fruitful international collaboration in scientific research, putting aside secrecy and personal agendas. Scholarly communication is an essential element in the process and much has changed during this pandemic. Preprints, such as the medRxiv and bioRxiv servers, saw a surge in submissions, facilitating the early sharing of information publicly. Many peer-reviewed journals and publishers also accelerated their submission-to-publication procedures and made coronavirus-related research openly available and free to read. Whether this improvement in efficiency will persist or not is unclear. Stefano Bertuzzi, chief executive of the American Society for Microbiology, thinks that “this is just the emergency situation that we’re dealing with.” It might be too early to predict what academic research will look like post-COVID-19. Nevertheless, research agendas will certainly be affected and revenue generation will most likely be the main concern.

4.2 Medical and nursing education

The COVID-19 crisis has severely disrupted medical education and the lives of medical and nursing students. At the onset of the pandemic, lectures were moved online and clinical clerkships were halted based on recommendations from the Association of American Medical Colleges, measures that were adopted in many countries worldwide. In order to protect patients and the healthcare workforce and limit the risk of transmission, many hospitals suspended regular clinical care in an attempt to minimize non-essential staffing and reduce the number of patients seeking non-COVID-19 related care. The shortage of protective personal equipment was also an additional obstacle preventing medical and nursing students from interacting with patients, fulfilling their required patient care hours, and practicing bedside medicine training. This is in contrast to other disasters, such as earthquakes, fires, or other outbreaks, where students were able to involved in emergency responses, while continuing their education.

Pre-clinical students may not have been affected as much as their senior counterparts as their main educational activities were lecture-based and the virtual move was not a disadvantage, especially for the tech-savvy universities. However, an essential element in a physician’s learning and training journey is the development of communication skills and empathy with patients, further limiting the students’ overall educational experience. Such changes and disruptions in medical education are large losses in learning opportunities. However, in some institutions, final year medical students have been put in the frontline in the fight against COVID-19; an issue that has been highly debated.

In order to keep students on track for graduation and enter the workforce, many schools around the world have developed strategies to help them finish their degrees such as introducing emergency waivers to reduce the number of required clinical hours for nursing students or showing flexibility using virtual simulations.
This relaxation of requirements comes at a time where many countries have been suffering from overstretched healthcare systems and having to face a crisis-level shortage of medical and nursing staff.

In the Arab world, surveys were conducted in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Libya to assess the medical students’ circumstances and the impact of the pandemic on their education, given that many countries in the region suffer from instability and a poor digital infrastructure, necessary for conducting virtual learning. Online learning also raised the issue of inequity in terms of access to devices and the internet. Another common issue was the readiness of the educators to embrace online learning, as the majority are considered “digital immigrants”, often unwilling to adapt and not able to reap the benefits of technology. During the lockdown period, students had taken on different approaches to education. While some got accommodated to online learning, others relied on self-study, and some undertook research activities or participated in volunteering efforts part of the COVID-19 response. Suggestions to encourage academic coaching were also made to enhance the communication between educators and students so they stay motivated. In fact, the pandemic has had severe psychological effects on students worldwide, with many suffering from anxiety and depression, which could eventually impact their career plans.

Although the pandemic was a source of uncertainty, disruption and chaos for medical students, it has provided them with an opportunity to view firsthand medicine as a dynamic field. It demonstrated the qualities required from a 21st-century physician and the importance of cross-disciplinary interactions to solve complex issues in healthcare and respond rapidly and efficiently to threats. This crisis will surely change the way physicians are educated. “There may be no better time in history to learn what it means to be a physician.”

4.3 Pharmacy education

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged healthcare providers and workers as they had to stand in the frontline and fight a disease in an uncertain and unpredictable environment with little scientific evidence on its management. Pharmacists were no exception. They quickly had to respond and assume prominent roles in health promotion by informing and enabling the public in an effort to control the outbreak, while putting their safety aside. Pharmacists also saw their roles expanding during the pandemic and their responsibilities growing as pharmacies became sites for testing and vaccinations. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the important role of pharmacists in health crisis and management, and pharmacy education needs to keep evolving to further advance the role of pharmacists.

Such responsiveness requires a robust educational background and special sets of skills. In fact, curricular changes in the pharmacy program have been taking place since the 1960s, resulting in profound transformations, and making pharmacy a patient-centered career. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the important role of pharmacists in health crisis and management, and pharmacy education needs to keep evolving to further advance the role of pharmacists.

An analysis of the academic pharmacy’s response during the pandemic and surveys from Jordan and Saudi Arabia summarize the status of pharmacy education and the challenges faced during the pandemic, while reflecting on opportunities for improvement. The suspension of on-site laboratory teaching and experiential training were a major challenge although virtual alternatives were provided. Nonetheless, the pandemic has surely provided a learning opportunity for pharmacy faculty, staff and
students, highlighting the important role of pharmacists in the management of pandemic and health crises, as well giving them a drive for becoming agents of change.[74]

4.4 Engineering education and skills

Engineering education, a usually hands-on, content-centered and design-oriented type of education, is a challenging domain when having to face the pandemic-induced social distancing measures. These are more or less similar to the challenges described in the previous sections and mostly related to online delivery and technological obstacles such as poor internet connection, absence of software licenses, lack of devices, or even space in the house, in addition to exhaustion and lack of focus during virtual sessions. Educators also had their own challenges, many being unprepared for online class delivery, digitally incompetent and having difficulty adapting the syllabus for online and hybrid teaching. They often had to resort to sharing handwritten notes and virtual videos of labs with their students.[76,75]

Several projects and initiatives were undertaken during the pandemic to serve the global health efforts in the fight against the virus. For example, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering’s high voltage lab at Mississippi State University in the United States quickly converted battery-operated ventilators, originally designed for temporary and emergency responses, to AC power so that they can be used for longer periods of time.[77] Another example is an interactive map by the Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering to track the spread of the virus in real-time.[78] From the Arab world, the American University of Beirut developed “Ma3an – Together Against Corona”, a contact tracing and exposure notification mobile app for Lebanon, a partnership between the university’s Humanitarian Engineering Initiative and the Ministry of Public Health.[79] The American University of Beirut also launched a series of projects and initiatives for the development of medical and personal equipment involving collaborations between the faculties engineering and medicine, such as designing a self-disinfecting robot for hospital use, developing environmentally friendly biodegradable masks as alternatives to the N95 mask, among others.[80] In Tunisia, a team of engineering students from the Sousse National School of Engineering developed 3D-printed protected masks, a project that was officially supported by the President of the republic.[81]

Clearly COVID-19 has put educators and students out of their comfort zones, forcing them to think what learning should be about and to embrace change.

4.5 Business education

Business schools had to ensure instructional continuity during the pandemic through emergency remote teaching as in other fields. Business as usual. However business education has long been questioned regarding its lack of relevance, public value and general impact on society.[83] [82] The COVID-19 pandemic has re-ignited this long debate, creating a pressing need to re-think in the long-run the purpose and meaning of the business school in order to secure its future to fit in a business world that is changing faster than ever.[84]

The missions of business schools have been centered around the understanding of management and the preparation and training of men and women to become leaders that are mainly oriented towards the pursuit
of profit or profit maximization in a competitive environment where the strongest survives. Instead of producing graduates that look at the needs of the wider society, we have "unethical graduates" that lack moral reasoning.[85] However the post-COVID 19-world will be different than the one we know. The nature of the workplace is changing, which will demand not only a new set of skills and services but also new insights and perspectives. Business schools have already started overhauling their curricula and reshaping educational services and programs that would be relevant to the student’s needs and closer to the changing reality. For instance, shortly after the early months of the pandemic, business schools started introducing courses and workshops on leadership in a time of crisis.[86] and saw the resurgence of financial technology (Fintech) programs, which is “the design and delivery of financial products and services using disruptive technologies in order to reduce cost, improve efficiency and provide better personalized service.”[88] "The meaning of the MBA is also changing, once a “must have” despite soaring costs and having to leave the workforce for two years for a full time degree, it is no longer considered a high return on investment.[89,83] As the lure of the business school with a huge reliance on international students, COVID-19 has significantly impacted the MBA’s cash cow status, forcing business schools to reconsider their business model.

COVID-19 has also accelerated the change in admission requirements. For instance, early during the pandemic, undergraduate business programs made the SAT or ACT scores optional and the GMAT was waived for graduate programs.[90]

However will this adaptation period be enough for the needed transformation of the business school?

4.6 Legal education

The typical traditionalist law school had no choice but to adapt to the COVID-19-imposed remote learning methodologies. Law schools have been long facing criticism related to their business model and pedagogy, creating graduates drowning in debts due to the ever-escalating costs of their studies.

Looking at the job market, COVID-19 has created a “boom” for the law industry despite a plunging economy. In fact, the pandemic has highlighted the complexity and vulnerability of a rapidly changing business world. Lawyers will be needed more than ever to protect and promote the rule of law.[92,91]

A re-imagined legal education will consist of training students “to think like a lawyer” not only in the traditional sense of learning legal basics and thinking critically, but also learning soft skills such as emotional intelligence, collaboration and communication abilities in addition to competencies required by legal professionals in the post-COVID-19 era. Referred to as augmented skills, these include project management, data analytics, crisis management, and the use of technology in legal delivery, to name a few.[93,91] The law degree will no longer be the end goal but rather the start of the legal learning process.

4.7 Arts and design (creative disciplines)

Online learning proved to be successful in various disciplines. However in the case of creative education such as graphic design, architecture and fashion, it raises question marks. A blended or hybrid approach
has mainly been adopted in institutions around world and consists of a combination of both online and face-to-face teaching.\[94\] To mitigate some of the limitations of online learning in the arts, Adobe provided free access to many of its applications during the pandemic, which are usually used during design classes on campus.\[95\] Several companies have also come up with resources for teachers and students, in an effort to enhance their learning experience.\[96\] However with limited access to design studios, students found themselves missing out on a special kind of learning experience, one that embraces the interaction and intimacy that develops between students and faculty, encouraging the exchange of thoughts and ideas. To overcome this, educators have had to resort to making time for digital feedback. But it is not enough and something is lost in the process. Online teaching in arts requires a lot more work than in-person teaching and a lot of flexibility from all parts.

4.8 Adult education

Adult education, also referred to as continuing education, is an educational activity undertaken by adults beyond traditional schooling. It recognizes education as a lifelong process that shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society.\[97\] "Adult education comprises diverse modes of study to fill various purposes such as: (1) advancing vocational and professional skills; this is the most common type and aims at preparing adults for the job market, improving skills required for a profession, and adapt to a changing workplace; (2) promoting personal development and contributing to self-fulfillment and leisure, which is mostly learning for the sake of learning; (3) acquiring literacy and numeracy skills as well as remediating neglected primary or secondary education; and (4) participating fully in democratic and civic processes. Adult learning is essential to reduce social inequalities related, but not limited to gender, social status, disability, and race.

However adult education is inadequately funded, and even underfunded, as very few governments have been dedicating the recommended 3% of their educational budget.\[98\] According to the Fourth Global Report on Adult Learning and Education, the major focus of adult learning goes to the workplace and serving economic needs.\[99\] Often it is the employed, often high-waged staff that benefit the most from this type of education, leading to a Matthew effect, where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.\[100\] In fact, cost of participation is the main barrier for accessing adult education, putting vulnerable and underprivileged members in the society such as women, refugees, and adults with low literacy, at a major disadvantage, and even more marginalized, further widening inequalities.

While governments and education authorities have taken measures to respond to the educational emergency triggered by the pandemic and ensure the continuity of education, adult learning was more or less neglected. Besides, adult learners had to face many barriers. As online learning was the most suitable way to resume education in schools and universities, many adult education programs lack the technological resources and rely on face-to-face teaching, plus adult learners often suffer from poor digital literacy skills, suddenly finding themselves having to upskill their digital capabilities, adding more to their stress and anxiety. Many of these learners also lost their jobs during the pandemic or were given pay cuts, and so had to prioritize earning over learning.

It was estimated that 773 million adults lacked basic literacy skills before the pandemic, a number that will most likely increase in the near future. With a global economy in its worst recession since World War II, this crisis is forcing education providers to re-think how adult learning opportunities are provided, focusing
on the development of new skills for a changing market. Aside from the vocational aspect, there is also a
need to look into the other purposes of adult learning, such as “basic health and citizenship
education to safeguard a future society that is sustainable and cohesive.”[101]” In a report prepared by the
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, different programs and best practices from different countries
are presented as examples of promising approaches for adult learning education for the post-COVID-19
period.[101] Among the countries represented are Algeria and Egypt from the Arab region, showcasing
programs on the empowerment women and young community members from disadvantaged areas
respectively, while highlighting the importance of building strong partnerships for the delivery of
initiatives.

5 Beyond the Pandemic : The Challenges of Recovery

Faced with exceptional challenges, higher education institutions had to be proactive in confronting the
COVID-19-induced change. They proved to be responsive and responsible. Leaders showed speed and
agility in decision-making, educators changed their delivery methods, and students adapted to digital
learning. However, there is no doubt we are facing an era of uncertainty and unprecedented complexity.
Even before the pandemic, questions around the value, the relevance, and the need of higher education
were arising, as students seemed unprepared for the job market. In other words, the higher education sector
seemed disconnected from the real world. Now is the time for higher education institutions to re-think
their operating models, their purpose and their mission if they want to survive and create a sustainable
model.” When a wave of challenges hit, speed gives more control over destiny and agility increases your
options. It is important to take advantage of the opportunities that arise.[102]”

5.1 The student pool

The recruitment of prospect students and the retention of current ones was a major challenge during the
first few months of the pandemic in 2020. Although domestic student recruitment has not been majorly
affected, it is the international students that posed a problem, especially that universities rely on them in
their operating models.

The ability to connect and communicate with students, current and prospective, has never been more
important. Higher education institutions have been working hard on setting-up communication and
marketing strategies for the recruitment of students. With open-days on hold and in-person interactions
with an institution’s community being still very limited, they had to develop and expand their digital
outreach. The institutions’ response and operations during these challenging times may have also impacted
current students, leaving them concerned about their study plans and future. Higher education institutions
will have to face competition not only among each other, based on their responsiveness to challenging
situations and the treatment given to their community, but also with online-only providers, which have
been recently put in the spotlight. Besides, these institutions need to take into consideration that the
pandemic may have changed the students’ attitudes and perspectives towards education in general, their
developmental needs and eventually their perception on the importance of the degree. Now more than
ever, the higher education sector has to face issues of affordability, relevance and equity in education, issues
that have long been sidelined. They have to keep up with the student’s changing expectations and they have
to differentiate themselves from an increasingly diverse and attractive pool of education providers. For this,
it is important to look at the students’ perspective and provide answers to where, how and why they want to learn.

### 5.2 The academic programs

While the world is planning to return to some kind of “pre-COVID normal”, there is no going back for higher education institutions. Uncertainty around student enrollments and the decline in public funding, re-assessing the portfolio of courses seems like the next obvious step in order to manage balance sheets and ensure financial sustainability in the long run. This involves redefining the value proposition of the institution, reviewing academic programs by assessing those that are essential to its mission, and reconsidering those that are non-essential from the student’s standpoint. For so long, higher education institutions have been designing curricula and pedagogies around the interest of departments, away from the students’ expectations and needs, and many are considered impractical and disengaging. This would entail closing certain programs as well as investing in new ones to attract an ever-more conscious and diverse pool of students.

There is also a need to determine the appropriate balance between face-to-face and online teaching. While tuitions from the first type usually cover fixed administrative, faculty and estate costs, the latter will not necessarily be enough. Moreover, there is general apprehension towards paying for online classes, even doubting if it is worth it.[103] Just like a digital book costs less compared to the physical version, students expect to pay less for online course offerings.

Implementing blended learning programs should not affect the quality of education and the reputation of the institution. However while online programs can fulfill a course learning outcomes, certain skills such as promoting problem-solving, encouraging critical thinking, enhancing social skills, and even motivating and inspiring students cannot easily be attained online. Delivery models should be responsive and innovative. And academic programs should aim at closing the gap between learning and the real world by embracing “learning by doing” and engaging students in real life experiences to develop knowledge and skills through collaborations, internships or other hands-on experiences as part of the learning cycle. This is where experiential learning comes into play. And this is at risk today. The process of learning through experience has significant advantages such as actively involving the learner in the learning process, encouraging reflection and analysis, and improving decision-making effectiveness and problem-solving skills. It is and must remain a crucial part in the evolution of education.[104]

### 5.3 The real estate

The rise of online learning, accompanied by flexible working models and arrangements, has impacted the demand on estate and campus footprint, causing higher education institutions to re-visit their space management strategies. Over recent years, there has been a drive to expand campus construction and build new facilities to attract prospective students. This “academic building boom” was often described as irrational.[106,105] Today, re-purposing the higher education estate is on the agenda of policymakers and leaders. For example, it is projected that personal office space used by academic and administrative staff, which typically consists of over a third of the institution’s property, will be altered and even reduced. The emphasis will shift to investing in the digital IT infrastructure and digital learning environments as well as providing communal areas for the students’ learning and recreational use and lecture theaters, in an effort to overcome the challenges of providing socially-distanced teaching space.[106] In other words, “COVID-
19 has underscored the burden of physical campus infrastructure and the need for technical infrastructure improvements.[107]

The COVID-19 crisis has surely put to the test the financial resilience and strength of higher education institutions. Depending on each institution’s type and circumstances, re-structuring will be essential in order to survive for some or expand for others. It is important to recognize the benefits of collaboration and the timely potential for merger and acquisitions. “While higher education has stood the test of a thousand years, many individual schools will simply not survive the next five.[108]”

5.4 The academic jobs

Technology-supported work flexibility and outsourcing are new major employment trends in the labor market, which have seemingly started to impact the higher education staff. Higher education institutions have long been advocates of fixed staffing costs, as exemplified by a tenure-track faculty workforce. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the operating dynamics of these institutions by accelerating the financial strain. Budget cuts, hiring freezes, layoffs were all common topics, making higher education employment not as desirable and secure as it used to be. The young, non-tenured, and part-time professors are of course the ones hit the most, having to suffer furloughs and layoffs. Virtual learning was also a challenge many older tenured professors had to face, whereas tenure-track professors found themselves in career limbo and an uncertain future. In addition, the loss of job opportunities in academe is driving graduates and PhDs to seek non-academic careers. However is the grass really greener on the other side.[109] According to a survey by The Chronicles of Higher Education in the United States, over half of faculty of all ranks consider leaving teaching by changing their careers or retiring[110] and experts are warning of a “coming exodus of academics.[111]”

Moreover, outsourcing services usually provided in-house instead of hiring permanent staff for these jobs have been on the rise, allowing the institution not only to increase efficiency but also to control costs, save money on job security, compensation and benefits.[112] Such services can include core activities (certain administrative functions, cleaning and security) as well as non-core functions (housing, bookstores and dining facilities). This kind of arrangements needs robust partnerships and does not come without its own challenges and disadvantages, including but not limited to: loss of managerial control, reputational risk due to inefficiencies by the provider and quality issues, lack of flexibility, instability and hidden costs.

6 Future Trends and Possibilities

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the transformation of education. The phase of global experimentation with virtual learning has changed the learning experience and the higher education sector can start looking now beyond immediate demands. While it is still difficult to predict what the higher education landscape will look like once the COVID-19 threat has dissipated, it has undoubtedly instilled a new mindset and methodologies.

“In 1665, Cambridge University closed because of the plague. Isaac Newton decided to work from home. He discovered calculus and the laws of motion. Just saying.”, said Paddy Cosgrave, chief executive of Web Summit.
6.1 A new perspective on 21st century skills and learning methodologies

COVID-19 has transformed the way we live and work and consequently highlighted the skills and key competencies that are needed for the student’s development. Communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, agility and ability to solve complex problems are key components of 21st century skills.[113] Educators have to play an important role in developing and promoting these skills to produce graduates who can thrive and succeed in these changing times and difficult circumstances. This requires a shift in instructional approaches, assessment methods and training; a shift from a mostly “lecture-based learning” approach to “problem-based learning”, centered around the belief that students learn through active collaboration and interaction with others.[114]

Digital literacy and information and communications technology (ICT) skills have also drawn major attention as a core element of 21st century skills. The digital transformation of education however is not a new phenomenon. It is COVID-19 that induced a “paradigm shift” for higher education institutions and hastened virtual teaching and remote working.[115] This global pandemic has also put the spotlight again on Massive online open classes (MOOCs), a term coined in 2008 for open-access online course providers, available to anyone with internet connection, anywhere in the world. Back then, George Siemens and Stephen Downes decided to experiment the concept of connectivism by teaching a course called “Connectivism and Connective Knowledge” to a small cohort of traditional students at the University of Manitoba in Canada, while providing open access to anyone who wished to attend online. The 25 students at the university were joined by 2,200 people from around the world. The purpose of MOOCs was to “democratize higher education” by providing affordable or free education accessible to anyone.[116] MOOCs were mainly attractive to learners seeking professional advancement to close a skills gap not provided by traditional education in a rapidly evolving marketplace as well as for those looking for personal growth. After a successful start, by 2015 academics thought MOOCs were “almost dead”.[117] Five years later, they were booming: enrolments at the online platform Coursera was up 640% compared to the year before and Udemy saw a surge of 400% between February and March 2020.[116]

Digital education requires appropriate and robust technological infrastructures and platforms to support virtual teaching and learning. This was accompanied by a surge in the use and types of learning management systems (Blackboard, Moodle, Edmodo, Microsoft teams) and software applications (Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts, Google Meet, Cisco WebEx, GoToMeeting, Loom, OBS) to facilitate the management and delivery of online courses.

Now that technology advances are progressing exponentially, focus is switching to methodologies for generating dynamic, proactive and collaborative sessions. To improve the learning experience through the use of educational technology, various methodologies resurfaced such as the “flipped classroom” pedagogical model, which is a blended learning model whereby students use technology resources to prepare for their classes in advance and use the actual session for fruitful interactions among each other and the educator in order to promote deeper understanding and knowledge of the subject.

However, technologies are still widely criticized for separating the learner from the educator and creating a weak sense of community. This debate is as old as the beginning of civilization. Socrates was a strong advocate of face-to-face interactions and was critical of using writing to transmit knowledge. Nonetheless, he hadn’t thought that the written word or books, the hot technology of the time, would provide a richer
In today’s world, the fear of digital education is well-founded, however it is no longer a matter of whether we should use technology or not, but rather how to use it and how to create a sense of community.

6.2 Innovations in teaching technologies from the Arab world

The inconveniences and negative effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic were also sources of opportunities, inspiration and innovation. The pandemic has triggered the capacity of people to come together and created an innovation ecosystem. In these challenging times, a myriad of initiatives in the delivery of education emerged around the world. This section sheds the light on some of the technological innovations from various Arab countries, addressing structural weaknesses in the education sector in the region.

The rise of online platforms hosting digital learning resources has been remarkable in the Arab region, whether it is granting access to educational content or providing online courses. In Morocco, the MOOC platform Maroc Université Numérique (MUN) uploaded digital educational resources from various universities of Morocco to serve university students.[119]

The Skilling Up Mashreq (SUM) initiative, which was launched in Amman, Jordan in 2019 during the Digital Mashreq Forum is part of the World Bank’s commitment to prepare young women and men from the Mashreq region (Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq) for the digital workspace by addressing the digital skills gap. SUM serves as a platform to boost initiatives in digital skills training through collaborations between the government, private sector and universities. It also aims at attracting digital technology players to invest in the region. So far this initiative has established partnerships with major international and regional players. For example in Jordan, the partnership between Edraak – an MOOC platform established by the Queen Rania Foundation – and Code.org – an international nonprofit organization that aims to encourage people to learn computer science, especially students from underrepresented groups – resulted in the localization of computer science education resources. This included the translation of Code.org videos into Arabic, which will be used for the design and implementation of a computer science curriculum. In Lebanon, Code.org partnered with the Beirut Digital District – a hub for the digital and creative industries – in April 2020 under SUM’s World Bank umbrella, to provide free online Arabic coding lessons. Another SUM initiative stems from the collaboration with Microsoft, LinkedIn and GitHub, and aims to offer free digital skills courses and certifications to young people in partnership with the Beirut Digital District in Lebanon and Injaz in Jordan – a non-profit organization in Jordan which aims at providing vocational training and skills to young people.[120]

The UAE’s largest applied higher education institution, Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), led the digital transformation of education as soon as classes were suspended at the beginning of the pandemic by launching first a two-day virtual learning pilot program to test its digital infrastructure in delivering its curriculum fully online at the regularly scheduled times. The online platforms were set up in partnership with Etisalat, Zoom and Blackboard. HCT then sought to establish a service-on-demand “uber-like” virtual classroom model, which then evolved into DIGI Campus, an online learning platform that aims at keeping students engaged and providing them with virtual off-campus activities such as E-counselling, life skills, E-sports and health activities, an E-reading space with book review sessions, and E-volunteering.[121]
In Bahrain, the Ministry of Education and the Bahrain Information and eGovernment Authority were also quick to set up an electronic online portal for students, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services, completed with an additional online service using Microsoft Teams and Office 365 programs that connects students to teachers and a specialized support staff.[122]

Educational television was another solution used in Arab countries to overcome the obstacles of remote learning, especially with regards to internet penetration challenges. In Morocco for example, the state television broadcasted live sessions and educational material across the nation, in partnership with the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research.[123]

7 Conclusion

COVID-19 is a virus that has turned into a pandemic. It is a virus that has brought our lives and the world as we know it to a halt, taking us out of our comfort zones, causing a rupture with the past, and forcing us to think about the future. Epidemiologists and health risk analysts have repeatedly warned of coming pandemics with huge social and economic impacts. It was no longer a matter of if but rather when. The world was warned and the world was unprepared. Now that vaccinations are underway to achieve herd immunity and limit the spread of the virus, a sense of normality is gradually being restored and populations around the world are embracing the pre-COVID-19 status quo. With systemic risks likely to increase in the future, has this pandemic taught us a lesson in setting global public health policy, the importance of international collaborations, and realizing the need for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. COVID-19 could be a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

However will we ever learn from our mistakes? Will the voices of experts be ever heard? Form history and experience, it seems we learned nothing. German philosopher Georg Hegel once famously said: “The only thing that we learn from history is that we learn nothing?” Will this time be any different?
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Higher Education in the Post COVID-19: Lessons from a Pandemic

The 23rd Conference of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) on Sciences, Technology and Innovation (STI) Under Ever Changing Global Events 18-19 October 2022 Rabat-Morocco

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Summary:

• Online E-learning has saved the educational sector from locking disaster.

• Style of educational pedagogy will be changed.

• Blended architecture of resilient interactive learning will be emerged to stimulate the minds, to think of future challenges.
The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is the most recently discovered type of coronaviruses which causes respiratory infections. It was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and has since spread to all continents affecting 243 million people and causing 4.94 million death worldwide (As of October 24, 2021)
The COVID-19 Educational Response: Maslow before Bloom

*Immediate measures*

The students’ needs and well-being come first and are essential for educational attainment.

So first came the decision to **close** higher education institutions, a measure that was part of the **social distancing** and **confinement** protocols adopted by China and recommended by the WHO to contain the virus.

According to UNESCO by 1 April 2020, **89.4%** of enrolled students were affected by the closure of schools and higher education institutions, amounting to **1.5 billion learners** worldwide.
The COVID-19 Educational Response: Maslow before Bloom

*Immediate measures*

The impact of the pandemic on education in the Arab region was more negative than in other parts of the world and showed how badly the sector is in need for reforms (absence of proper technical infrastructure; the reluctance and unreadiness of faculty to teach online; limited access to internet).

Institutions who were unable to deliver distance learning either shifted their academic year, *postponed graduation*, adopted a *blended learning approach* or had no choice but to *re-open* their campuses.
The COVID-19 Educational Response: Maslow before Bloom

*Immediate effects*

- **Drop in enrollment of international students**
  - Initiatives to retain and attract international students
  - UAE: allows new students to sponsor their relatives
  - Egypt: establishing new branches in other countries in Africa

- **Drop in enrollment of local students**
  - Experts worry that when these students leave higher education, it is very unlikely that they will return
The COVID-19 Educational Response: Maslow before Bloom

Immediate effects

Decrease in government funding

- Financial assistance to students strongly affected
- Institutional budget cuts (reduction in salaries, early retirements, contract freeze and even suspension, elimination of tenure, as well trimming benefits, closing programs, merging departments, and decreasing research funds)

Drop in the auxiliary fees

- Gaping hole in the operating revenue
The COVID-19 Educational Response: Maslow before Bloom

Immediate challenges

• Although the shift to online teaching and learning has rescued the academic year at the beginning of the pandemic, it has revealed several challenges

The internet

• Only 54.6% of individuals use the internet and more than half of households don’t have internet at home in the MENA region, with the exception of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (scoring over 90%), based on ITU estimates for 2020

Examinations & evaluations

• Opportunity to re-think traditional approaches as these are still based on 20th-century mindsets, emphasizing on compliance and conformity rather than critical-thinking and creativity, as well as enhancing collaboration and knowledge transfer

Conferences & networking

• Academics will not travel to an in-person conference unless that event offers benefits far and above what can be gained virtually
The COVID-19 Educational Response: Maslow before Bloom

Immediate challenges

Having faced so many challenges and undertaken a lot of changes in the way education is delivered, the higher education community is now ready to:

➢ To exit the crisis stage
➢ To re-think the pre-COVID-19 status
➢ To assess the implemented solutions and invest in remote learning

→ in order to plan for a future with quality education, as new challenges will continue to emerge

→ Stating that online learning is the only way forward would be a dicey prediction
The Pandemic has impacted various educational fields and activities

- The academic research enterprise
- Medical and nursing education
- Pharmacy education
- Business education
- Legal education
- Arts and design
- Engineering education and skills
- Adult education
Beyond the pandemic: The challenges of recovery

- **The student pool**
  It is important to look at the students’ perspective and provide answers to where, how and why they want to learn.

- **The academic programs**
  Curricula and pedagogies have been designed around the interest of departments, away from the students’ expectations and needs, and many are considered impractical and disengaging.

- **The real estate**
  The “academic building boom” was often described as irrational. It is important to recognize the benefits of collaboration and the timely potential for merger and acquisitions.

- **The academic jobs**
  Higher education employment not as desirable and secure as it used to be. Experts are warning of a “coming exodus of academics”
Future trends and possibilities

“In 1665, Cambridge University closed because of the plague. Isaac Newton decided to work from home. He discovered calculus and the laws of motion.

Just saying.” Paddy Cosgrave, Chief Executive of Web Summit
Future trends and possibilities

A new perspective on 21st century skills and learning methodologies

Key 21st century skills

Communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, agility and ability to solve complex problems

MOOCs

Technological infrastructures and platforms

In today’s world, the fear of digital education is well-founded, however it is no longer a matter of whether we should use technology or not, but rather how to use it and how to create a sense of community.
Future trends and possibilities

*Innovations in teaching from the Arab world*

- The pandemic has triggered the capacity of people to come together and created an innovation ecosystem

Uploaded digital educational resources from various universities of Morocco to serve university students

Led the digital transformation of education as soon as classes were suspended at the beginning of the pandemic
Future trends and possibilities

Innovations in teaching from the Arab world

SUM serves as a platform to boost initiatives in digital skills training through collaborations between the government, private sector and universities. It also aims at attracting digital technology players to invest in the region.

- Provides free online Arabic coding lessons
- Translated Code.org videos into Arabic, which will be used for the design and implementation of a computer science curriculum
Conclusion

With systemic risks likely to increase in the future, has this pandemic taught us a lesson in setting global public health policy, the importance of international collaborations, and realizing the need for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement?

COVID-19 could be a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

However, will we ever learn from our mistakes?

“The only thing that we learn from history is that we learn nothing?” Georg Hegel

Will this time be any different?
Thank You!
Joint Vaccines Development and Manufacturing Potential in OIC Countries

Abdullah Al Musa
Director General, Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), Jordan

Abstract

Vaccines can provide prophylactic treatment and could have therapeutic affect for some diseases. Despite the fact that 90% of the world population are living in developing countries, only 35% of all manufactured COVID 19 vaccine is sold to them whereas 65% were sold to developed countries. This disparity created a huge gap in vaccine coverage between developed and developing countries. The slow vaccination roll-out in developing countries will have a cascading effect on the economies of developed countries; estimated by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to range from $4.3-9 trillion over the next few years.

In the backdrop of vaccine roll-out hassles; OIC-member states are to reposition themselves to best ensure their countries are well-equipped and prepared for current and potential emergencies. We herein advocate the initiative of establishing a joint OIC vaccine production and development enterprise.

The overarching dimension that justifies this venture at the OIC level if the member states politically choose to include ever-increasing global demand for vaccines, the existence of a viable market (economy of scale) at the OIC level; the vaccine manufacturing experience in some OIC countries and OIC capacity for manufacturing and joint funding capabilities.
JOINT VACCINES DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING POTENTIAL IN OIC-MEMBER STATES

presented at the 23rd IAS Conference
18 - 19 October 2022
Islamabad - Pakistan

Prof. Abdullah Al-Musa
Director General, IAS

This proposal was submitted to the COMSTEC Steering Committee for the Implementation of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 Meeting and was adopted.
This paper will tackle two questions:

**ONE.** Why should OIC-member States establish a Consortium for Development and Manufacturing Vaccines?

**TWO.** Why the Joint Vaccine Manufacturing and Development Enterprise Success is Reasonably Justified?
Why should OIC-member States establish a Consortium for Development and Manufacturing Vaccines?

1.a. History of current and previous vaccine nationalism trends during pandemics.

The west is being accused of vaccine nationalism by prioritizing their domestic vaccination programs in an attempt to go back to business as usual as seen in the current COVID19 and 2009 H1N1 influenza virus pandemics.

The extent of this trend was seen in some countries’ measures to block locally produced vaccines from being exported during these two pandemics.

Thus, prudent precautions (specially in developing countries) should be taken into consideration in the face of highly expected flare of other pandemics.
Why should OIC-member States establish a Consortium for Development and Manufacturing Vaccines?

1.b. This trend is manifested by data posted in the Access to Vaccine Index (AVI) which showed the statistics of COVID19 vaccine production sold in the first year of the pandemic was as follows:

- 65% of the vaccine production is sold to developed countries.
- 23% to upper middle-income countries.
- 8% to lower middle-income countries.
- 4% to lower income countries.
Why should OIC-member States establish a Consortium for Development and Manufacturing Vaccines?

It is noteworthy, however, that vaccine nationalism by developed countries may backfire on their economy.

According to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) the slowdown in the economies of developed countries is estimated to reach a $4.3-9 trillion loss in GDP across wealthy countries.

The message is that the inward domestic prioritization would cost more than sharing and donating vaccines specially to low-income countries.
Why should OIC-member States consider Joint Vaccines Development and Manufacturing?

2. The limited capacity worldwide to produce vaccines.

3. Existing capacity and capability of vaccine manufacturing and development in different OIC-member states.

4. Joint manufacturing and development of vaccine production enterprise constitute a mechanism for technology transfer specially when venturing in vaccine manufacturing of generic types based on license from international pharmaceutical companies. That constitutes an initial step towards novel vaccine development endeavor.

5. The joint enterprise provides a mechanism to share the rather extremely costly human, physical and financial resources.

The estimated cost of developing and manufacturing a new vaccine from scratch could range from $500 million to $1 billion.
Why the Joint Vaccine Manufacturing and Development Enterprise Success is Reasonably Justified?

1. High demand for vaccines globally and particularly in the developing world including all OIC-member states due to:

   a. High fertility rate coupled with low GDP.

   The world birth cohort is currently 140 million explaining the increasing trend in the world population that is estimated to reach 9.7 billion by the year 2100. The fertility rate in OIC-member states which mostly falls in the range between low-income to upper-middle-income category is higher than that in high-income countries.

   High fertility coupled with the low GDP constitutes a financial hurdle to cover all newborn needs for vaccination in OIC-member states.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries by income</th>
<th>% Global Share</th>
<th>Fertility</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>High income</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper-middle income</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower-middle income</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low-income</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>
Why the Joint Vaccine Manufacturing and Development Enterprise Success is Reasonably Justified?

b. High population coupled with high mortality rate.

The increasing population in the world generally and in developing countries particularly created tremendous need for vaccine manufacturing capacity that is not matched by current supply capacity of affordable vaccine to curb mortality rates caused by vaccine-preventable diseases. As shown in Table 2, the under-five mortality for 1000 live births during 2000-2010 was significantly higher in OIC-member states than that in developed countries or non-OIC developing countries. The situation is exacerbated by low GDP in developing countries rendering their market unattractive for vaccine manufacturers located mostly in developed countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Mortality/ 1000 live birth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OIC-member States</td>
<td>76.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developed Countries</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-OIC developing countries</td>
<td>75.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>65.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Manufacturers in developed countries are reluctant to participate in the Extended Program on Immunization of WHO that supplies vaccines for developing countries. Instead, they devote their efforts to cover more lucrative markets in developed countries. This translates into the fact that the pharmaceutical industry in the developed world is responding to the needs of high-income countries. They at the same time shy off from providing generic vaccines to markets in developing countries.
Why the Joint Vaccine Manufacturing and Development Enterprise Success is Reasonably Justified?

3. Moreover, the diseases common in developing countries may not be common in developed world. Diarrheal diseases, malaria and other childhood diseases appear on the developing world’s top 10 causes of death. The share of total diseases burden in low-income countries is higher than that in high-income countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diseases</th>
<th>% of total diseases burden in high-income countries</th>
<th>% of total diseases burden in low-income countries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communicable diseases</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>56.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Infection</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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</table>
4. The initiative could anchor on the already available experience in OIC countries:

12 companies in developing countries are members of the Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network (DCVMN) currently supply 30 different generic prequalified vaccines. Only one company in OIC-member states (Indonesia) is among those who provide prequalified vaccine to WHO through its Extended Program on Immunization (EPI). There are also 3 more OIC states namely Bangladesh, Egypt and Iran who are members of (DCVMN). Other OIC-member states either showed interest in vaccine production under license, partnered with foreign companies or exhibited self-reliance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Potential vaccine production</th>
<th>Production under license</th>
<th>Self-reliance</th>
<th>Partnering company</th>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sputnik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sputnik, Sinovac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sinopharm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Why the Joint Vaccine Manufacturing and Development Enterprise Success is Reasonably Justified?

5. Viable Market.

Market for proposed vaccine facility output would not be a problem for the following reasons:

5.1. The OIC-member states high population (1.8 bn) with high fertility rate.

5.2. Manufacturers in developed countries are not any more interested in markets in the developing world because of insufficient return.

5.3. EPI increasing demands for vaccines at affordable prices. Some manufacturers in developing countries (Indonesia among them) started to supply vaccines to UN agencies after getting them prequalified by WHO.

6. Rising interest in vaccine manufacturing in some OIC-member states such as Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria.
THANK YOU.
The current COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, represents a major threat to health. Morocco, like other countries in the world, has experienced the disastrous consequences of the coronavirus disease "COVID-19". In this context, the Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Techniques, through its college of Life Sciences and Techniques, initiated the establishment of a national research consortium on Covid-19.

This consortium has assembled human skills, know-how and national infrastructure around a multidisciplinary research project on Covid-19, which will allow Morocco to enrich scientific knowledge on Covid-19 and to contribute to the international effort to fight against the pandemic virus Sars-Cov-2.

Indeed, the consortium includes, Sample collection centers, screening and diagnostic centers, Genomic Analysis Centers equipped with high-throughput sequencing platform, hospital recruitment centers for Covid-19 patients, and join together, multidisciplinary skills.

In this conference, an overview of the Moroccan Covid-19 consortium will be given, with details on structural organization and the ongoing research project. Four themes have been so far retained for financial support and deal with Viral genomic, and the host genetic predisposition, the host immune response and the epidemiologic study.

In fact, the virus genome data will be combined with, host genetic predisposition, host immune response, clinical and epidemiological datasets in order to help to guide Moroccan public health interventions and policies. The subsequent analysis will permit evaluation of the effectiveness of novel treatments and non-pharmacological interventions on SARS-CoV-2 populations and spread. It will provide information on whether or not outbreaks are due to introductions from outside or ongoing transmission within the community. The data will also enable researchers to identify and understand genetic changes that affect how easily the virus is passed on and the severity of the symptoms it causes. Finally, the information will help in the development of treatments and vaccines and monitor their impact as they are introduced.
GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE OF SARS-COV-2: A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE INTEGRATIVE APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE HASSAN II ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ON COVID-19

Pr. Elmostafa EL FAHIME, CNRST, RABAT, Morocco

The IAS 23rd international conference on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Under Ever Changing Global Events
RABAT 19 OCTOBRE 2022
Overview about the integrated strategy adopted by H2AST to Promote biomedical research on Covid-19

Details about the implementation of research themes and organization of the BM research on Covid-19

Why genomic surveillance is requested for the management and the control of the pandemic?

Examples of Scientific Data to Illustrate How genomic data are used for Covid-19 mitigation

Conclusion
The Moroccan Authority reacted rapidly and decisively to the threat of Covid-19 pandemic. Exceptional measures were implemented to control the spread of the virus.

- Closing Border (March 20, 2020)
- Declaration of state of emergency, Imposition of curfew on Mars 20, 2020

Being aware of what was going on in Europe, where hospitals were being overwhelmed by Covid-19 cases.

A substantial investment was made to upgrade medical equipment. Increasing hospital capacity.

Mobilization of the military medical staff and infrastructure

Considerable efforts to promote public awareness and invite individuals to join collective efforts were made.

All of the above strategic initiatives help to reduce the impact of the pandemic, as evidenced by the main epidemiological indicator, the fatality rate, which ranks among the lowest in the world.
The Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Techniques proposes measures to support Morocco's strategy for the management of the Covid-19 pandemic.

H2AST adopts an integrative strategy to support and promote critical area of research on Covid-19 in Morocco.

The primary goals are to get Moroccan scientists together to discuss all of the efforts that have been or will be done to combat the epidemic. Identifying critical research areas that will help immediately in pandemic mitigation.

Scientists and clinicians from several disciplines addressed the research vision that will be pursued, based on the existing skills, knowledge and infrastructure.

June 2020: Based on the conclusions from the first webinar

4 themes of research were retained

- Viral Genomic
- Host genetic
- Host Immunology
- Epidemiology

A structural organization the NCBM was retained

Each WG was given four weeks to provide a detailed proposal for the research activities to be done, including Rational behind proposal, Methodologies, expected result, a time frame and specific needs.
### Example of detailed proposal for the research activities retained for the viral Genomic theme of research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Package</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>INSTITUTIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WP1</td>
<td>SEQUENCING OF THE COMPLETE GENOMES OF SARS-COV2 VIRUSES CIRCULATING IN MOROCCO</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache1.1</td>
<td>Séquençage des génomes complets du virus SARS-Cov2 circulant au Maroc (Technologies Ion torrent/ et Illumina)</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache1.2</td>
<td>Séquençage d’un génome complet du Sar-Cov2 par la technologie Sanger (Génome de Référence de Sarc-Cov2 du Maroc)</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tache1.3</td>
<td>Étude des profils phylogénétique/phyloéénétique et mutations et Cartographie des haplotypes virus</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>WP2</td>
<td>STUDY OF THERAPEUTIC TARGETS BY MOLECULAR MODELING AND DOCKING</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache 2.1</td>
<td>Utilisation des séquences génomique des virus pour des Études in silico par la modélisation moléculaire, l’amarrage moléculaire, la simulation de la dynamique moléculaire du complexe protéine-ligand</td>
<td>X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tache 2.2</td>
<td>Déterminer la puissance inhibitrice des inhibiteurs potentiels par un Kit de transfert d’énergie par résonance de fluorescence (FRET).</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tache 2.3</td>
<td>Déterminer l’impact des inhibiteurs potentiels sur la réplication du SRAS-cov-2 in vitro sur des cellules infectées par le virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>WP3</td>
<td>IMPLEMENTATION: SYSTEM OF CELL CULTURE TO STUDY IN VITRO THE INFECTION BY SARS-COV2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache 3.1</td>
<td>Développement de VLPs SARS-CoV-2, utilisant le système BACmam de production sur cellules d’insectes (BACulovirus) et de mammifères</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache 3.2</td>
<td>Amplification des ORF du gène S par RT-PCR et Construction de vecteur de transfert et de « shuttle vectors » d’expression de protéines.</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache 3.3</td>
<td>Modèles animaux : Utilisation pour la simulation des manifestations cliniques et pathologiques de COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>WP4</td>
<td>IMPLEMENTATION OF A REVERSE GENETIC SYSTEMS FOR SARS-COV 2: VLP production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache 4.1</td>
<td>Clonage des ADNc du SRAS-CoV-2, et Assemblage des cDNA pour la production des VLP (Virus Like Particles)</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache 4.2</td>
<td>Test in vitro des VLP sur culture cellulaire</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache 4.3</td>
<td>Explorer et caractérisation de nouvelles Molécules thérapeutique sur les VLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache 4.4</td>
<td>Test in Vivo chez l’animal des molécules thérapeutiques ayant données les meilleurs résultats in-Vitro</td>
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<tr>
<td>WP5</td>
<td>IMPLEMENTATION OF DIAGNOSTIC TEST FOR THE RAPID SCREENING OF SARS-CoV-2 VOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache-5.1</td>
<td>Conception de dispositifs des cassettes de test rapide de diagnostic sur la salive et validation (proof of the concept)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache-5.2</td>
<td>Fabrication des cassettes (Prototypes) et validation des résultats par comparaison avec les cassettes sérologiques</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tache-5.3</td>
<td>Préparation des manuels d’utilisation</td>
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Generate genomic data by NGS and ST. A workflow for bioinformatic analysis was implemented. A reporting system to notify the health authorities about VOC introduction was implemented.
The main Mitigation actions are built up with the use of genomic data.

- In order to reduce the risk of any pandemic, three major actions are built using genomic data.
Fig. 1 | Features of the spike protein in human SARS-CoV-2 and related coronaviruses. a, Mutations in contact residues of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. The spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 (red bar at top) was aligned against the most closely related SARS-CoV-like coronaviruses and SARS-CoV itself. Key residues in the spike protein that make contact to the ACE2 receptor are marked with blue boxes in both SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses, including SARS-CoV (Urbani strain). b, Acquisition of polybasic cleavage site and O-linked glycans. Both the polybasic cleavage site and the three adjacent predicted O-linked glycans are unique to SARS-CoV-2 and were not previously seen in lineage B betacoronaviruses. Sequences shown are from NCBI GenBank, accession codes MN908947, MN996532, AY278741, KY417146 and MK211376. The pangolin coronavirus sequences are a consensus generated from SRR10168377 and SRR10168378 (NCBI BioProject PRJNA573298)^9,30.
what does viral genomics enable?

Characterize the whole virus and study its evolution

Study changes over time

Study individual parts that make up the virus

Study the spread of the virus in time and space (see data at https://nextstrain.org/)

SARS_COV2 New variant genomic surveillance is a required activity for the sanitary authority.
Utility of viral genomics data for Tracking and controlling the pandemic
Sequencing Capacity in Morocco

Sanger Sequencing: Targeted sequencing

Sequencing Capacity in Morocco

Sequençage NGS: Whole Génome sequencing
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Institute</th>
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**Digitalisation of The genomic and genetic data**

Dashboard for monitoring SARS-Cov 2 mutations and their location
Digitalisation of The genomic and genetic data
Map of Morocco with the number of SARS-CoV-2 sequences reflected in GISAID as of 31 March 2022.
Deciphering the mutational landscape of SARS-CoV 2 in Morocco
The genome of SARS-CoV-2 has rapidly acquired numerous mutations, giving rise to several Variants of Concern (VOCs) with altered epidemiological, immunological, and pathogenic properties.
Proportions of VOI/VOC during The pandemic In Morocco
D614G located in the spike gene and P323L in NSP12 are the highest recorded mutations worldwide, that is also the case in Morocco.
Pearson correlation test describing the relation between non structural protein and the Spike gene
Pearson correlation test describing the relation between structural protein and the Spike gene
2021: E Wilkinson, M Giovanetti, H Tegally, JE San, R Lessels, D Cuadros, ...and al., A year of genomic surveillance reveals how the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic unfolded in Africa. Science 374 (6566), 423-431

Coded-Complete Genome Sequences of a Delta Subvariant (AY.33) of SARS-CoV-2 Obtained from COVID-19 Patients

Maroune Mellouki a,b, Tahar Chouiti c, Mouhsine Hmimi a,b, Sanas Alasou-Amine a,b, Safaa Rhouadi c, Henda Ghrama a,b, Maha Ouaret a,b, Omar Askander c, Lamiae Betayachi c, Nadia Touil c, Bouhaya El Mohisci c, Khadi El Ennini d, Abdellatif Larqué c, Mostafa Elouenisse d, Khadi El Ennini a,b

Complete Genome Sequence of a SARS-CoV-2 Strain Sampled in Morocco in May 2020, Obtained Using Sanger Sequencing

Taha Chouiti c, Mouhsine Hmimi a,b, Maroune Mellouki a,b, Sanas Alasou-Amine a,b, Safaa Rhouadi c, Henda Ghrama a,b, Maha Ouaret a,b, Omar Askander c, Lamiae Betayachi c, Nadia Touil c, Bouhaya El Mohisci c, Khadi El Ennini d, Abdellatif Larqué c, Mostafa Elouenisse d, Khadi El Ennini a,b

Genome Sequences of the Delta Variant (B.1.617.2) and the Kappa Variant (B.1.617.1) Detected in Morocco

Maroune Mellouki a,b, Tahar Chouiti c, Mouhsine Hmimi a,b, Sanas Alasou-Amine a,b, Nadia Touil c, Hicham Elannar c, Khadi El Ennini d, Mohamed Yosib d, Mouad Merabet d, Abdelkrim Mediane Belkahla d, Jalal Neuriit d, Abderrahmane Maaroufi d, and Elomesta El Fahtime a,b

Regions of Origin

- Eastern Africa
- Northern Africa
- Southern Africa
- Western Africa

Direction of Viral Movement
The Impact of Mutations in SARS-CoV-2 Spike on Viral Infectivity and Antigenicity

Qianqian Li,1,5 Jiaying Wu,1,5 Jianhui Nie,1,5 Li Zhang,1,5 Huan Hao,1 Shuo Liu,1 Chenyan Zhao,1 Qi Zhang,2 Huan Liu,1 Lingling Nie,1 Haiyang Qin,1 Meng Wang,1 Qiong Lu,1 Xiaoyu Li,1 Qiyu Sun,1 Junkai Liu,1 Linqi Zhang,1 Xuguang Li,4 Weijin Huang,1,6 and Youchun Wang1,6,*

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2Graduate School of Peking Union Medical College, No. 9 Dongdan Santiao, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100730, China
3Center for Global Health and Infectious Diseases, Comprehensive AIDS Research Center, and Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Structural Biology, School of Medicine, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China
4Centre for Vaccine Evaluation, Biologics and Genetic Therapies Directorate, HPFB, Health Canada and WHO Collaborating Center for Standardization and Evaluation of Biologicals, Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9, Canada
5These authors contributed equally
6Lead Contact
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https://doi.org/10.1016j.cell.2020.07.012

SUMMARY

The spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 has been undergoing mutations and is highly glycosylated. It is critically important to investigate the biological significance of these mutations. Here, we investigated 80 variants and 26 glycosylation site modifications for the infectivity and reactivity to a panel of neutralizing antibodies and sera from convalescent patients. D614G, along with several variants containing both D614G and another amino acid change, were significantly more infectious. Most variants with amino acid change at receptor binding domain were less infectious, but variants including A475V, L452R, V483A, and F490L became resistant to some neutralizing antibodies. Moreover, the majority of glycosylation deletions were less infectious, whereas deletion of both N331 and N343 glycosylation drastically reduced infectivity, revealing the importance of glycosylation for viral infectivity. Interestingly, N234Q was markedly resistant to neutralizing antibodies, whereas N165Q became more sensitive. These findings could be of value in the development of vaccine and therapeutic antibodies.
Utility of viral genomics data for the development of rapid diagnostic test
Data from viral genomes will be used to build rapid screening tools, which will be critical in the management and control of pandemics.
Utility of viral genomics data for the development antiviral Treatments
**Mpro: Potential therapeutic target for the creation of anti-SARS-CoV-2 treatment**

| 2 | 499502 | 499503 | 499504 | 499505 | 499506 | 499507 | 499508 | 499509 | 499510 | 499511 | 499512 | 499513 | 499514 | 499515 | 499516 | 499517 | 499518 | 499519 | 499520 | 499521 | 499522 | 499523 | 499524 | 499525 | 499526 | 499527 | 499528 | 499529 | 499530 | 499531 | 499532 | 499533 | 499534 | 499535 | 499536 | 499537 | 499538 |
| 3 | 499539 | 499540 | 499541 | 499542 | 499543 | 499544 | 499545 | 499546 | 499547 | 499548 | 499549 | 499550 | 499551 | 499552 | 499553 | 499554 | 499555 | 499556 | 499557 | 499558 | 499559 | 499560 | 499561 | 499562 | 499563 | 499564 | 499565 | 499566 | 499567 | 499568 | 499569 | 499570 | 499571 | 499572 | 499573 | 499574 | 499575 |
| 4 | 499576 | 499577 | 499578 | 499579 | 499580 | 499581 | 499582 | 499583 | 499584 | 499585 | 499586 | 499587 | 499588 | 499589 | 499590 | 499591 | 499592 | 499593 | 499594 | 499595 | 499596 | 499597 | 499598 | 499599 | 499600 | 499601 | 499602 | 499603 | 499604 | 499605 | 499606 | 499607 | 499608 | 499609 | 499610 | 499611 | 499612 |

| Total des séquences analysées | 506 |
| Avec mutation | 93 |
| Sans mutation | 413 |
| Mutations au niveau du site actif M-Pro | 1: (FMP-82)/(M49I) |
Mpro: A potential therapeutic target for anti-Sars-Cov-2 treatment development.
AC088 is a novel molecule that inhibits the main protease of SARS CoV2 and prevents viral replication. These findings are covered by international patents, and a scientific article will be published in a high-impact journal.
**Paxlovid: PF-07321332 + ritonavir**
(Pfizer’s antiviral pill for treating COVID-19)

**PF-07321332**
Main Protease (MPro) inhibitor that prevents the virus from separating its protein precursor (polyprotein) into individual proteins

It gets covalently stuck on the scissors’ blades via formation of a thioimdate adduct between the drug’s nitrile warhead and the enzyme’s catalytic cysteine if you were curious

**ritonavir**
CYP inhibitor that prevents it from getting metabolized too quickly by CYP enzymes in our liver (keeps it from being modified in ways that make it more easily excreted)

Chemical structures from Wikipedia
Conclusions

- We have built a National COVID-19 sequencing service in Morocco.
- We have sequenced and shared genomics information at national, regional and international level.
- We are sequencing samples in real time, and using this data to support every level of the pandemic response, from hospital outbreaks up to national scientific advice.
- This is an extension of the work being done at the national level by Public Health authorities to include academic research institutions.
AH2ST promotes scientific research to support our country's health sovereignty.
Epigenetics is one of the toxicology mechanisms usually seen by the environmental toxicants causing abnormal gene expression and cell dysfunction. Environmental toxicants may cause epigenetics toxicity through DNA methylation, histone modifications, and disturbance of microRNA expressions. These epigenetic effects can be tissue-type specific and positively associated with the level and duration of exposure. These alterations are identified in various diseases such as cancer, autoimmune disorders, and respiratory, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal tracts, and bone diseases.

Current investigations have helped find some histone deacetylase inhibitors and DNA methyltransferase blockers that can limit epigenetic effects. Some of these compounds are approved for clinical use, and some are in preclinical and clinical testing. Besides medicines, dietary compounds can also be useful in the prevention of epigenetic - pathophysiological conditions.
THE ROLE OF ANTIOXIDANTS AND NUTRACEUTICALS IN PROMOTION OF LIFESTYLE AND HEALTH

ALI A. MOOSAVI-MOVAHEDI FIAS
Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics
University of Tehran, Iran

ABSTRACT

Today, humanity needs a healthy lifestyle to be able to control and moderate abnormal industries and technologies with rationality and science. One of the most important aspects of a decent lifestyle is having a good diet. As famous ancient words: you say what you eat, I say who you are. Good food has medicinal and nutritional functions that meet all the cellular needs of the body and this food is called superfood. Some superfoods are molecules, and those called Nutraceuticals suchlike natural molecules as curcumin and gingerol. These molecules are antioxidants that can scavenge and remove the stress from the body. The molecular definition of stress is unbalanced free radicals. Another important antioxidant that is produced in good sleep is a generous molecule called melatonin. We need to identify and live with generous natural molecules and educate others to make a lifestyle for society. The root cause of many diseases, including type 2 diabetes and COVID-19, are stress and unbalanced free radicals, so recognizing antioxidants from different sources such as sleep, functional food, tranquility, nature and faith is known for health. Let us and others this kind of lifestyle that encultures for human society. This manner may play a role in personalized medicine that manages some of the medicines it needs through human inner and external nature.

Keywords: Antioxidant, Lifestyle, Nutraceuticals, Sleep, Functional food, Tranquility, Natural molecules, Nature, Inner nature, Health, Science, Rationality.

References:
1- A. A. Moosavi-Movahedi (Ed.) Book: Rationality and Scientific Lifestyle for Health Springer 2021
2- M. Rabban, M. Habibi-Rezaei, M. Mazaheri, L. Saso and A. A. Moosavi-Movahedi “Anti-Viral Potential and Modulation of Nrf2 by Curcumin: Pharmacological Implications” Antioxidants 9,1228 (2020)
The Role of Antioxidants and Nutraceuticals in Promotion of Lifestyle and Health

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Web: ibb.ut.ac.ir/~moosavi
Today, humanity needs a healthy lifestyle to be able to control and moderate abnormal industries and technologies with rationality and science. One of the most important aspects of a decent lifestyle is having a good diet. As famous ancient words: you say what you eat, I say who you are.

Good food has medicinal and nutritional functions that meet all the cellular needs of the body and this food is called superfood. Some superfoods are molecules, and those called Nutraceuticals suchlike natural molecule as curcumin. This molecule is edible antioxidant that can scavenge and remove the stress from the body. The molecular definition of stress is unbalanced free radicals. Antioxidants are edible and nonedible.
The important antioxidant that is produced in good sleep is a generous molecule called melatonin. We need to identify and live with generous natural molecules and educate others to make a lifestyle for society. The root cause of many diseases, including type 2 diabetes and COVID-19, are stress and unbalanced free radicals, so the antioxidants from different sources such as sleep, functional food, tranquility, nature and faith is important to know for health. Let us and others this kind of lifestyle that enculture for human society.

This manner may play a role in personalized medicine that manages some of the medicines through human inner and external nature.
• The transmission of any external stress to the body's internal system produce oxidative stress
• The definition of molecular stress means penetrating free radicals in the body

- Free radical: an uncharged molecule (typically highly reactive and short-lived) having an unpaired valence electron.
- Antioxidant neutralizes free radicals via donation or receiving one electron.
Diabetes type-2 is a common disease in the industrial community. Diabetes complications are much more important than diabetes itself and causes dozens of other illnesses. One of the main reasons for diabetes type-2 is the consumption of industrial foods and industrial lifestyles that cause free radicals. Free radicals in the body to destroy biomacromolecules, cells and tissues. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are most risky free radicals in the body to intensify diabetes and its complications. The generation of unbalanced free radicals is the source of any stress and molecular aspect of stress refers to the birth of free radicals.
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<th>CURCUMIN</th>
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<td>Gastro-protective Effect</td>
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<td>Prevention of Metabolic Disorder</td>
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<td>Prevention of Respiratory Disorder</td>
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<td>Oral Health Maintenance</td>
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The production of melatonin, which is made of tryptophan in the pineal gland, increases in the evening with the onset of darkness, which tells us that it is time to go to bed.

Good quality sleep which is very important for health

Melatonin

**Direct action**
Scavenging free radicals

**Indirect action**
Synthesis of antioxidant enzymes

**Anti-Inflammatory Effect**

**Anti-Cancer Activity**

**Anti-Diabetic Activity**

**Anti-Hypertensive Effect**

**Neuro-protective Effect**

**Anti-Aging**

**Prevention of Metabolic Disorder**
• Sleep plays an important role in stabilizing and improving memory, effective productivity, maintaining hormonal balance, regulating temperature and heart rate, removing metabolic wastes from the brain, strengthening the immune system, healing wounds and reducing inflammation.

• Good sleep along with proper and healthy nutrition and continuous exercise are a triangle that ensures the health and well performance of individuals in community.

• Light pollution in the modern industrial societies, and physical and mental illnesses may severely affect sleep quality. It is essential that citizens are properly educated about sleep hygiene and the right ways to experience perfect sleep.
Human health is formed by a balance between external nature and human inner nature. Whatever man departs from his nature, approach to unbalanced diseases and make a balance, which is the principle of human health. Self-knowledge is thus the foundation of human health and happiness.

Humankind has created technologies based on inferior knowledge, whereas it needs vast knowledge to produce healthy technologies. Today, a large part of man-made technologies is anomalous and create pollutants that produce unbalanced free radicals for humans and other creatures. This caused human disease and damage to the planet. Technologies must be linked to ethics, sustainable environment, bio-model, biomimetic and bioinspiration and health.
APPENDIX A

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IAS), JORDAN

Prof. Abdel Salam Majali President.
Prof. Adnan Badran Treasurer.
Prof. Abdullah Al Musa Director General.
Ms. Taghreed Saqer Executive Secretary.
Ms. Najwa F. Daghestani Programs Manager.

HASSAN II ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MOROCCO

Prof. Omar Fassi-Fehri Permanent Secretary.
Prof. Mostapha Bousmina Chancellor.
Prof. Abdeslam Hoummada Director of Sciences.
# APPENDIX B

## 23rd Islamic World Academy of Sciences Conference

*Science, Technology and Innovation Under Ever Changing Global Events*

## List of Participants

18-19 October 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Abdellatif Miraoui</td>
<td>Minister</td>
<td>Higher Education, Research and Innovation</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abderazek Chahboune</td>
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<td>Direction de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation</td>
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<td>Ahmad Chahlane</td>
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<td>Ahmed Slaoui</td>
<td>Administrator in the Programs Direction</td>
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<td>Ahmed Souissi</td>
<td>Enseignant Chercheur</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:souissahmed11@gmail.com">souissahmed11@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Dilfuza Egamberdieva</td>
<td>Head of Research Lab</td>
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<td>31.</td>
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<td>Centre Royal de Télédétection Spatiale (CRTS)</td>
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<td>American University of Beirut</td>
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APPENDIX C
Patrons of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences

His Excellency the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Founding Patron.

Honorary Fellows of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences
(in alphabetical order)

1. Dr. Mohammad Abdolahad, The 2019 Mustafa Prize Laureate, Iran.
2. Mr. Fouad Alghanim, President, Alghanim Group, Kuwait.
3. Prof. Hossein Baharvand, The 2019 Mustafa Prize Laureate, Iran.
5. Prof. M. Zahid Hasan, The 2021 Mustafa Prize Laureate, Bangladesh.
6. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Former OIC Secretary General, Turkey.
9. Tun Pehin Sri Haji Dr. Abdul Taib Mahmud, the Governor of Sarawak (Yang di-Pertua Negeri), Malaysia.
10. Dr. Adnan M. Mjalli, Chairman, MIG, USA.
11. His Excellency Dato’ Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Former Prime Minister of Malaysia.
12. Prof. Ferid Murad, 1998 Nobel Laureate (Medicine), USA.
13. His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev, Former President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
15. Prof. Mohamed El-Sayegh, The 2021 Mustafa Prize Laureate, Lebanon.
16. His Excellency Mr. Mintimer Shaimiev, Former President of the Republic of Tatarstan/ Russian Federation.
17. Prof. M. Amin Shokrollahi, The 2017 Mustafa Prize Laureate, Iran.
18. Prof. Yahya Tayalati, The 2021 Mustafa Prize Laureate, Morocco.
19. His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani, Former Prime Minister of Qatar, Qatar.
20. Prof. Cumrun Vafa, The 2021 Mustafa Prize Laureate, Iran.
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<td>Prof. Robert Nigmatulin</td>
<td>Tatarstan/Russia</td>
<td>Physics/Mathematics</td>
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<td>Prof. Shekoufeh Nikfar</td>
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<td>Prof. Gulsen Oner</td>
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<td>Prof. Iqbal Parker</td>
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<td>Prof. Syed Muhammad Qaim</td>
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<td>Prof. Mohammed Musa Shabat</td>
<td>Gaza/ Palestine</td>
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<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>Prof. Mahmoud Tebyani</td>
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<td>Prof. Ahmet Hikmet Uciskik</td>
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<td>Prof. Gulnar Vagapova</td>
<td>Tatarstan/ Russia</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<td>Prof. Omar M. Yaghi</td>
<td>Jordan/USA</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>Prof. Jackie Ying</td>
<td>Singapore/USA</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
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<td>Prof. Bekhzad Yuldashev</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
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<td>Prof. Salim Yusuf</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Prof. Mikhael Zalikhanov</td>
<td>Balkar/Russia</td>
<td>Glaciology/Biology</td>
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</table>
APPENDIX D

LAUREATES OF THE IAS-COMSTEC CH IBRAHIM MEMORIAL AWARD

Prof. Ugur Dilmen 1996 Turkey.
Prof. Mohammad Abdollahi 2005 Iran.
Prof. Mohammed Manna Al-Qattan 2007 Saudi Arabia.
Dr Faris Gavrankapetanovic 2009 Bosnia.
Dr Saima Riazuddin 2011 Pakistan.
Prof. Liaquat Ali 2013 Bangladesh.
Prof. Jackie Ying 2015 Singapore.
Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim 2017 Mauritius.
APPENDIX D

THE COUNCIL OF THE
ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
(2023-2027)

President: Adnan Badran Jordan
Vice-President: Khatijah Yusoff Malaysia
Vice-President: Abdelhafid Lahlaidi Morocco
Vice-President: Zabta Shinwari Pakistan
Treasurer: Elias Baydoun Jordan
Secretary General: Tasawar Hayat Pakistan
Member: Malek Maaza Algeria
Member: Farhan Jalees Ahmad India
Member: Mohammad Abdollahi Iran
Member: Aini Ideris Malaysia
Member: Dilfuza Egamberdieva Uzbekistan

IAS EXECUTIVE STAFF

Dr. Abdullah Al Musa Director General.
Ms. Taghreed Saqer Executive Secretary.
Ms. Najwa F. Daghestani Programs Manager.
Mr. Ahmad Nassar Finance Officer.
Mr. Hamdi Bader Ahmad Driver.
APPENDIX E

PUBLICATIONS OF THE
ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- *Technology Transfer for Development in the Muslim World*. Proceedings of the fourth international conference, Antalya (Turkey) (1990). Published by the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Editors: F. Daghestani (Jordan), A. Altamemi (Jordan), and M. Ergin (Turkey).
• Water in the Islamic World: An Imminent Crisis. Proceedings of the eighth international conference, Khartoum (Sudan) (1994). Published by the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Editors: M. Ergin (Turkey), H. Dogan Altinbilek (Turkey), and Moneef R. Zou’bi (Jordan).


- **Science and Technology in Muslim World: Achievements and Prospects,** Proceedings of the IAS Symposium, Astana (Kazakhstan), (2012). Published by the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Editor: Moneef R. Zou’bi (Jordan). Online.


- **Landscape of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Islamic Countries,** Proceedings of the twenty-second international conference,
Amman (Jordan), (2020) Virtual Conference. Published by the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Editors: Abdullah Al Musa (Jordan), and Najwa F. Daghestani (Jordan). Online.

- Biodiversity Conference, Proceedings of the IAS conference on Biodiversity, Amman (Jordan), (2021) Virtual Conference. Published by the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Editors: Abdullah Al Musa (Jordan), and Najwa F. Daghestani (Jordan). Online.


- Challenges to Promote Science and Technology for Socio-Economic Development in OIC Countries, Proceedings of the twenty-fourth international conference, Karachi (Pakistan), (2023). Published by the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Editors: Adnan Badran (Jordan), and Najwa F. Daghestani (Jordan). Online.

**BOOKS**

1) Islamic Thought and Modern Science - Published by the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (1997) - Author: Mumtaz A. Kazi.


**PERIODICALS**

1) *Medical Journal of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences* (ISSN 1016-3360) – quarterly. Responsible Editor: **Dr. Nedim Aytekin**.

2) *Newsletter of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences* – quarterly. Responsible Editor: **Najwa Daghestani**.

APPENDIX G

IAS SUPPORTERS

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
The State of Kuwait
The Republic of Turkey
Malaysia
The Republic of Senegal
The Republic of Sudan
The Islamic Republic of Iran
The State of Qatar
The Republic of Tunisia
The Kingdom of Morocco
The State of Sarawak/Malaysia
The Republic of Indonesia
The Republic of Tatarstan/ Russian Federation
The State of Selangor/Malaysia
The Sultanate of Oman
The Republic of Kazakhstan
The People's Republic of Bangladesh

The OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation (COMSTEC),

Pakistan.
The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Saudi Arabia.
The OPEC Fund for International Development, Vienna, Austria.
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), Kuwait.
Arab Potash Company, Jordan.
Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), Morocco.
The World Bank, USA.
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kenya.
Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).
Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council (TUBITAK).
The Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan.
Pakistan Ministry of Science and Technology.
Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, Malaysia.
University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal.
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sudan.
National Centre for Research, Sudan.
Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Iran.
Iranian Research Organisation for Science and Technology (IROST).
The Academy of Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
The Academy of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
Saudi Arabian Oil Company, Saudi Arabia (ARAMCO).
Ihlas Holding, Turkey.
Arab Bank, Jordan.
Jordan Kuwait Bank, Jordan.
Rafia Industrial Company, Jordan.
Secretariat of State for Scientific Research and Technology, Tunisia.
Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco.
Petra Private University, Jordan.
Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan.
Pakistan Academy of Sciences.
Majlis Islam Sarawak, Malaysia.
Tabung Baitulmal Sarawak, Malaysia.
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan.
Perdana Leadership Foundation, Putrajaya, Malaysia.
Royal Jordanian Airlines, Jordan.
Arab Jordan Investment Bank, Jordan.
National Centre for Human Resources Development, Jordan.
Al Bukhary Foundation, Malaysia.
Bilkent University, Turkey.
US National Academy of Sciences, USA.
International Islamic Charity Organisation, Kuwait.
Islamic Organisation of Medical Sciences, Kuwait.
Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND), Saudi Arabia.
Fouad Alghanim & Sons Group of Companies, Kuwait.
Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, Tatarstan, Russian Federation.
World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli, Libya.
International Islamic Academy of Science and Biotechnology (IAB), Malaysia.
University of Industry of Selangor (UNISEL), Malaysia.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar: The Permanent Committee for Organizing Conference, Qatar.
Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), Qatar.
R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, Kazakhstan.
Prime Ministry of Bangladesh, Bangladesh.
Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh; Bangladesh.
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Bangladesh.
Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Bangladesh.
Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Thani, Qatar.
Eng. Amjad Abu Aisheh, Jordan.
Jordan Islamic Bank, Jordan.
Dr Mahmood Abu Shairah, Jordan.
Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi, Turkey.
Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA), Turkey.
Hikma Pharmaceuticals, Jordan.
Dr Ahmed Saif Balhasa, UAE.
Dr Adnan Mjalli, USA.
Mr Ahmed Abu Ghazaleh (Arab Wings), Jordan.
Cairo Amman Bank, Jordan.
The Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM), Jordan.
Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, Rabat, Morocco.
International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan).