



College of Medicine and Health Sciences &

Sultan Qaboos University Hospital







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Professor Muna Al Saadoon, BHS, MD, MS, DCH, Ph.D. Dean, College of Medicine & Health Sciences

It is with a heavy heart that I stand before you to present the Annual Report 2023, a poignant reminder of the journey we have taken together. To the Annual Report Committee, whose tireless efforts have brought this document to fruition, I offer my deepest gratitude. This year has seen us embrace a new approach, grouping departments and units into broader categories, not merely for convenience but as a reflection of our commitment to SQU's vision and Oman's aspirations for 2040.

As we delve into the depths of academia within these pages, we encounter not just reports and statistics, but the essence of our collective pursuit. From scholarship to community service, from administration to clinical care, this report encapsulates the very soul of our mission: to advance education and healthcare, not only within Oman but beyond its borders.

In a world beset by a wide range of health-related challenges, the College of Medicine & Health Sciences, in tandem with the University Hospital, has emerged as a stalwart bastion of resilience. Despite the tumultuous backdrop, the institution has shown a remarkable ability to adapt, innovate, and remain resolute in its pursuit of excellence. Embracing global trends in education and health, it has seamlessly integrated digital health solutions, fostered interdisciplinary collaboration, and championed global health initiatives. Additionally, a greater emphasis on mental health, coupled with innovative approaches to medical education, has underscored its commitment to holistic health delivery. By addressing health equity and social determinants of health, while also prioritising resilience and preparedness in the face of crises, the university has reaffirmed its commitment to serving humanity and upholding the highest standards of medical care and education.

However, as we reflect on our accomplishments, we cannot overlook the individuals who have shaped our journey. Their dedication, passion, and unwavering spirit have been the driving force behind our success. As I write my final words as Dean, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for all those who have supported me throughout my tenure.

To the next custodian of this prestigious office of the Dean. I extend my sincere wishes for success. May you lead with wisdom, compassion, and steadfast commitment to our shared vision.

As the pages of this Annual Report turn, let them serve as a testament to our resilience, our innovation, and our unwavering dedication to transforming lives. Together, let us continue to chart new paths, inspire generations, and leave an indelible mark on the landscape of healthcare.



Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Mahrezi, MBChB, CCFP, FCFPDirector General, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

It is with immense pride and profound gratitude that I present the Annual Report for 2023 of the College of Medicine & Health Sciences (CoMHS) and the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH). This comprehensive overview highlights our significant milestones, the challenges we have overcome, and the remarkable progress we have achieved throughout the year.

Throughout this year, our institution has achieved remarkable achievements that reflect our collective commitment to advance medical science and healthcare delivery. Our hospital has maintained its reputation for providing high-quality healthcare services. We have expanded our specialised medical services to ensure that our patients receive the best possible care. Our clinical teams have embraced the latest technologies and practices, further improving patient outcomes.

This year, we have increased our research output, contributing valuable knowledge to the global medical community. Our researchers have been at the forefront of pioneering studies, particularly in areas such as genetics, hematological disorders, lipid disorders and others.

We have continued to prioritise the development of our students and healthcare professionals. Innovative approaches to medical education, including the integration of digital tools and simulation-based training, have equipped our students with the skills necessary to excel in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. The establishment of virtual clinics is one of the important initiatives highlighting our commitment to digital transformation.

Our commitment to community service has remained solid. We have launched several initiatives to improve health equity and increase the awareness of individuals in the community, such as school visits to raise awareness about diabetes and epilepsy. These efforts have strengthened our ties to the community and ensured the engagement of our students and faculty in the community.

Our progress is a reflection of visionary leadership and relentless support from our top leaders in the university. Strategic initiatives aligned with Oman Vision 2040 have guided us on our journey, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of medical education and healthcare.

As we celebrate our achievements, we must acknowledge the individuals whose dedication and passion have been the driving force behind our success. Our faculty, staff, students, and partners have demonstrated extraordinary commitment, and their contributions are the cornerstone of our institution's excellence.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our journey. Your dedication, passion, and unconditional support have been instrumental in our achievements. As we look to the future, let us remain firm in our commitment to excellence, innovation, and service to our society.

Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs



Dr. Khamis Al Hashmi, MD, MSc, Ph.D

Associate Professor,
Department of Physiology, and Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs

The Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs diligently administers all academic and organizational aspects of Phase III, the clinical phase of the MD program. This office acts as a crucial link between the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, the Deanship of Admission & Registration, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, and other affiliated hospitals and health centers. Its role is to ensure that students are seamlessly admitted to Phase III, arrange the necessary logistics, and maintain high-quality clinical training and appropriate supervision during their training.

The Office is responsible for clarifying academic policies and regulations, particularly those related to Phase III and training in health institutions. It organizes academic clinical advice, monitors student academic needs, and closely follows their comments and feedback on curriculum and assessment, in coordination with the college curriculum and examination committees and coordinators in affiliated hospitals. By fostering clear communication and efficient coordination, the office helps maintain the high standards of the MD programme and ensures that students receive the support they need to succeed.

Furthermore, the office is committed to the holistic well-being of students, ensuring that they receive adequate mental, health, and social support throughout their educational journey in Phase III. This includes providing resources and guidance to help students manage the demands of their clinical training and personal lives, promoting a balanced and supportive learning environment. The dedication of the office to student welfare reflects a wider commitment to creating an inclusive and nurturing environment in which every student has the opportunity to excel academically and professionally.

STATISTICS OF STUDENT NUMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2023:

Table 1: Number of students in phase III

YEAR	Total number of junior clerkship students	Total number of senior clerkship students	Total number of Pre- Internship Students
2023-2024	111	125	122

Table 2: Number of graduated students in 2023

Year	Total number of Phase III joined Phase III	Total number of graduated
2023	106	95

2023 Achievement

In line with the 2040 national vision and the University and College's commitment to embracing modern educational technologies and fostering innovative learning environments, the College has taken significant steps to enhance the clinical training phase of the MD program. The College has signed a contract with NHS ePortfolio to implement its ePortfolio system in Phase III workplace assessments. This initiative is designed to streamline and enhance the assessment process, providing a more robust and interactive platform for both students and educators. The ePortfolio system is expected to be launched with the new cohort of Phase III students starting in August 2024. This integration reflects the College's dedication to leveraging cutting-edge technology to improve educational outcomes and prepare students for the dynamic landscape of modern healthcare.

Furthermore, this initiative aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote opportunities for lifelong learning for all. By adopting advanced educational technologies and innovative assessment methods, the College is contributing to the global effort to enhance educational quality and accessibility.

Additionally, the College has conducted several meetings with coordinators and clinicians in affiliated teaching hospitals to increase awareness of the accreditation standards in preparation for the upcoming site visit by the accreditation team. These meetings are crucial in ensuring that all stakeholders are well-informed about the requirements and expectations of the accreditation process. By fostering a thorough understanding of these standards, the College aims to ensure compliance and demonstrate the high quality of its educational programs and clinical training environments. This proactive approach highlights the College's commitment to maintaining excellence and achieving recognition from accrediting bodies, reinforcing its reputation as a leading institution in medical education.

The College's efforts also resonate with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) emphasis on strengthening health systems and workforce capabilities globally. By ensuring high standards in clinical training and embracing innovative technologies, the College is contributing to the development of a well-prepared and competent healthcare workforce, ready to meet the evolving health needs of populations around the world.

Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Studies & Research



Prof. Amira Al Kharusi, MD, Ph.DAssociate Professor, Physiology Department & Assistant Dean for Postgraduates and Research

his report provides an overview of the office of Assistant Dean of Postgraduate Studies and Research (ADPGSR) and the two standing committees under the office. Below is detailed information about the purpose, responsibilities, outlook, challenges, committee members, and outlook of each committee independently as follows.

- i. Postgraduate Studies Committee
- ii. College Research Committee

The report will also provide the *Pure Platform* and ADPGSR events.

Postgraduate Studies Committee:

Purpose:

To provide academic leadership to the postgraduate studies in the College to ensure a high level of graduate competence in line with contemporary international standards.

Responsibilities:

i. To ensure that the administration of the college Postgraduate Programmes is in line with the SQU postgraduate regulations.

- ii. To oversee the College post-graduate students' selection and scholarship allocation processes.
- iii. To monitor and support the progress of postgraduate students.
- iv. To provide guidance to supervisors and students regarding research policies and procedures.
- v. To review the progress of PhD students to ensure that students:
- vi. Knowledge and skills are appropriate for the research to be conducted.
- vii. Identified the appropriate and practical research methods.
- viii. Have a feasible plan for the progression and completion of the research within the SQU-mandated PhD timeframe.
- ix. Recommend action on proposed program changes and new post-graduate programs.
- x. To periodically review postgraduate studies of the College including postgraduate students' output (patents/publications etc.) and recommend means of developing it.
- xi. To act on any other related matters that may be assigned to the Committee by the Dean.
- xii. Report periodically to the College Board on the progress of the Committee work.

Outlook:

- Postgraduate Student Statistics (Academic Year 2022/2023):
 - o Total: 40 admitted (7 Ph.D., 33 MSc)
 - o Total: 91 active (15 Ph.D., 43 MSc)
 - o Total: 12 graduated (2 PhD, 10 MSc)
- Active Postgraduate Programmes (Academic Year 2022/2023):
 - Ph.D.: Biochemistry, Epidemiology & Public Health, Clinical Pharmacy, Physiology
 - o MSc: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, Medical Microbiology, Physiology
- Committee Achievements in 2023:
 - Proposal for an elective course for the Master's Programme in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics
 - Introduction of an MSc Biomedical Sciences programme in Medical Microbiology
 - o Proposal for the introduction of a Master of Science (MSc) programme in Genetic Counseling
 - Approval of the MSc Clinical Physiology programme at the level of the Academic Council.

Challenges:

- Applicants did not receive a *release letter* from their employer (e.g., MOH) and limited scholarships.
- International students can obtain equal chances to be enrolled but still face diversity and living expenses challenges.
- Alumni and employer feedback and networking are still limited.

Committee members:

- i. Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Studies & Research Chairperson
- ii. Postgraduate Coordinator-Human & Clinical Anatomy Member
- iii. Postgraduate Coordinator–Biochemistry
- iv. Postgraduate Coordinator, Family Medicine & Public Health
- v. Postgraduate Coordinator Physiology
- vi. Postgraduate Coordinator Genetics
- vii. Postgraduate Coordinator–Microbiology & Immunology
- viii. Postgraduate Coordinator, Pharmacy & Clinical Pharmacy
- ix. Assistant Dean of Postgraduate Studies & Research Office Rapporteur

College Research Committee:

This committee's vision is in line with the SQU vision/mission to excel in teaching and learning, research and innovation, and community service by promoting the principles of scientific analysis and creative thinking in a collegial and stimulating environment and participating in the production, development, and dissemination of knowledge and interact with national and international communities. The research objectives at SQU are to:

- i. Conduct research and studies, both theoretical and applied, to serve the community and contribute to the generation of scientific solutions to social and economic problems linked to the Sultanate's comprehensive development plans and social vision.
- ii. Prepare Omani scientists, researchers, and experts capable of undertaking organized, systematic, and innovative work in diverse areas of science, arts, and technology.

Purpose:

To provide scientific leadership on research conducted in the College and SQUH.

Responsibilities:

i. Implement college research plans and encourage and support college researchers.

- ii. To receive, evaluate, and approve funding of submitted research proposals by college and SQUH staff according to predetermined objective criteria.
- iii. Monitor the progress of funded research projects until completion to ensure compliance with submitted proposals and with SQU research regulations.
- iv. Suspend or withdraw approval for any project that no longer complies with the submitted proposal and the SQU Research Regulations.
- v. Maintain a register of all applications that records the history of each proposal/project for two years after submission/completion.
- vi. Act on any other related matters that may be assigned to the Committee by the Dean.
- vii. Report periodically to the College Board on the progress of the Committee work.

Outlook:

- Funding sources:
 - o Internal Funds (SQU)
 - His Majesty Trust Fund Grant (HMTF).
 - Internal Grants (IG)
 - Deanship of Research Fund (RF)
 - External Funds
 - The MOHERI Grants
 - International Co-funding Programme
 - Consultancy Research (CR)
 - External Grants (EG)
 - Other applications include, e.g., the Omantel Grant Program-Telecommunications, IT, and nanotechnology, and the OLNG Grant for special-need research.
 - Research grants achieved in 2023 are detailed in the table below.

Internal funds	Amount (OMR)	External funds	Amount
			(OMR)
HMTF	30,700	MOHERI	27,500
IG	92,100	CR	33,529.16
RF	30,900		
UF	5,900		

- Committee Achievements in 2023:
 - o The Best Young Researcher Awards are introduced.

- o Review of annual and final reports submitted by PIs.
- o Review and processing research projects submitted by PIs.

Committee members:

- i. Prof. Muna Al Saadoon Dean Chairperson
- ii. Dr. Amira Al Kharusi Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Studies & Research Deputy Chair
- iii. Dr. Abdullah Al Alawi, Medicine, SOUH
- iv. Dr Al-Munther AlMawali, Genetics
- v. Dr. Mahmood Al Kindi Microbiology & Immunology, SQUH
- vi. Dr. Moon Chan Family Medicine & Public Health
- vii. Dr Srin Rao, Anatomy
- viii. Dr. Nasar Al Wahaibi Biomedical Sciences
- ix. Dr. Yahya Al Tamimi Biochemistry
- x. Dr. Yousuf Al Suleimani Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacy
- xi. Ms. Laila Al Kindi Assistant Dean -Postgraduate Studies and Research Office Rapporteur

Pure platform:

- Pure aggregates an organisation's research information from numerous internal and external sources such as Scopus, Web of Science, Mendeley, Embase, or/and any legacy data.
- A system to manage the scientific output of researchers, aiming to assist universities and research centres in highlighting, documenting, and updating the scientific output of academics and researchers.
- The table below demonstrates the data obtained through the Pure data platform per SQU colleges:

College	Total
AGR	223
ARTS	134
EPS	122
EDU	232
LAW	6
ENG	341
MED	374
NUR	68
SCI	151

Events/Workshops

The ADPGSR office organised two events:

- Authorship Issues and DisDisputes Seminar.
- Workshop on preparing a good manuscript.
- How to generate funds for initiatives using existing research facilities and collaboration?

SQU utilises the renowned academic platform Pure, a database from Scopus (Elsevier) that stores and integrates information on research activities in a structured and standardized way. This platform is particularly beneficial for the College of Medicine & Health Sciences and the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital in SQU. Allows the aggregation and analysis of research performance data, making it easier for researchers, faculty, and students to access a wide range of scholarly publications, track citation counts, h-indexes, and other important bibliometric indicators that reflect the impact and quality of their research. Additionally, Pure provides valuable information for strategic planning and decision-making within the College of Medicine & Health Sciences, promoting continuous improvement in research output and academic excellence.

Assistant Dean for Training and Community Service



Said A. Al-Busafi, B.Sc. (Hons), M.D., D.A.B.I.M., F.R.C.P. (C)
Associate Professor and Senior Consultant
Assistant Dean for Training and Community Services
Chair, Medical Internship Program
Head of Adult Gastroenterology Unit

This report provides an overview of the Assistant Dean of Training & Community Services and the four standing committees within the office. Detailed information is presented on the purpose, responsibilities, outlook, challenges, and members of each committee independently. The committees include the following:

Internship Program
Committee

Training Committee

Community Services
Committee

Entrepreneurship Committee

Internship Program Committee:

> Purpose:

Develop and review the internship program.

Responsibilities:

- ✓ Prepare guide brochures about the program.
- ✓ Set policies & guidelines for the program.
- ✓ Seek means and opportunities to review training centers and teaching and learning issues to improve quality.
- ✓ Provide a formal and qualitative means of consulting interns, gauging their opinions on their training matters, and soliciting suggestions for improvements and enhancements.
- ✓ Recommend remedial solutions to help interns achieve and maintain normal progression.
- ✓ Receive, discuss, and decide on applications from non-Omani candidates who apply for the internship program.
- ✓ Study decisions related to requests to postpone or withdraw from the program.
- ✓ Refer interns, when necessary, to other professional services (counseling services, specialized medical evaluation, etc.) to provide supporting evidence and/or advice about the case at hand.
- ✓ Discuss any business relating to the overall intern learning experience, including matters raised by interns and matters on which the college wishes to seek intern views.
- ✓ Deal with other issues that might arise regarding the smooth functioning of the program.
- ✓ Any other relevant matter from Dean.

➤ Outlook:

- ✓ The number of meetings held during the academic year 2023-2024 was 4 meetings.
- ✓ The number of MD graduates with pending requirements for the program is 5, and a candidate was approved to start the internship program.
- ✓ The number of interns in the entry assessment period is one candidate who passed the EAP and joined the internship program in April 2024.
- ✓ The number of interns who interrupted their internship training program is 4, and 3 interns rejoined the program in August 2023.
- ✓ The number of interns who were in the probationary period is one intern; he passed the probationary period and rejoined the internship program in December 2023.
- ✓ The number of interns who withdrew from the program is one, and the committee, the university, and the university have approved his request.
- ✓ There are two interns who requested a change in their rotations; one was approved, and the other was rejected.
- ✓ August 20, 2023 Batch Intakes:
- Total number of interns: 266

■ SOU: 95

International: 40

National University: 131

Interviewed: 46, 1 Failed

✓ December 2023 Batch Intakes:

• Total number of interns: 29

■ SQU: 18

International: 6

National University: 5

✓ April 20, 2024 Batch Intakes:

• Total number of interns: 5

Committee Achievements (Academic Year 2023-2024):

- ✓ **Evaluation form:** The evaluation form has been modified to contain only three categories instead of four and rubrics have been added to the form for the information of the internship coordinators and the interns. The new evaluation form will be used from August 20, 2024 (Appendix 1).
- ✓ *Internship Program Guide:* The committee prepared an internship program guide that includes everything related to the internship, from registration to certification (Appendix 2).
- ✓ *Internship Bylaw:* The Internship Bylaw and the college feedback & comments have been sent to the DVC office and will be presented to the Academic Council and then to the SQU Council.
- ✓ *Logbook*: new changes have been made to the logbook, and a new logbook will be implemented starting August 2024 (Appendix 3).

Other internship programs are related to the program.

- ✓ **Prometric exam:** an update was given to the committee members regarding the new Omani prometric exam. The new pass score for the Omani prometric exam has been set at 60.
- ✓ Proposal accepting international non-Omani graduates to the internship program: There is a proposal from the Internship Program Committee going to the College Board Committee end to higher administration in SQU to accept non-Omani graduates to the internship program as the internship office received many requests from international graduates. The program does not accept non-Omani due to Qarar (Sept 2015) from the College Board and the University Council. The last update was not to proceed until the university had resolved all listed requirements that the university and the internship requested from the university administration, including legal, administrative, financial, and logistical aspects.

- ✓ Equivalency Certificate from Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation: The delay in receiving the MOHERI equivalency certificate for intentional applicants delays their entry into the program. The committee decided to send the list of applied candidates to verify their status of the MOHERI equivalency certificate.
- ✓ *Issues with Evaluation Forms:* When incomplete evaluation forms were received, the office notified the internship coordinator to solve the problem with the people in charge of the evaluation forms.
- ✓ Reappointment of interns in the Neurology Department Khoula Hospital: A visit was made to Khoula Hospital to assess all relevant aspects before sending interns to Khoula; the committee decided that interns rotating in Royal Hospital Medicine can rotate for one month in the Neurology Department of Khoula Hospital.
- ✓ *Number of interns assigned to the hospital:* The number of interns assigned to hospitals will be according to the ACGME ratio of 1 supervisor to 5 interns starting August 20, 2024.
- ✓ *Internship Program Elective:* updating the list of approved electives for every new intake; the interns should do on-call duties during electives.
- ✓ Change of rotation system (monthly versus weekly blocks): The decision is to maintain the current rotation system (monthly).
- ✓ **Sohar Hospital-Surgery Department:** Due to multiple complaints from interns about the Surgery Department (Sohar Hospital) and the delay in informing interns who failed the rotation, the committee decided to put the Surgery Department under observation.

Committee members:

- ✓ Assistant Dean for Training & Community Services
- ✓ HoD-Medical Edu & Informatic Department

SQU Hospital

- ✓ Internship Coordinator Child Health
- ✓ Internship Coordinator Medicine
- ✓ Internship Coordinator Obstetrics & Gynecology
- ✓ Internship Coordinator Surgery

Royal Hospital

- ✓ Internship Coordinator Child Health
- ✓ Internship Coordinator Medicine
- ✓ Internship Coordinator Obstetrics & Gynecology
- ✓ Internship Coordinator Surgery

Armed Forces Hospital

✓ Internship Coordinator

Training Committee:

Purpose:

To govern the training/study programs available to the College's staff/faculty.

Responsibilities:

- ✓ To recommend to the University a plan of training courses, undergraduate and postgraduate studies for its staff and faculty development.
- ✓ Establish college criteria that guide the selection of staff/faculty for study/training programs that comply with the SQU rules and regulations.
- ✓ Distribute information on available training/study opportunities.
- ✓ Receive, evaluate, and approve applications for training/study programs.
- ✓ Follow-up, monitor and evaluate the progress of delegated staff/faculty for training/study programs.
- ✓ Act on any other related matters that may be assigned to the Committee by the Dean.
- ✓ Report periodically to the College Board on the progress of the Committee work.

> Outlook:

- ✓ Number of meetings held during the academic year 2023-2024: one. However, most of the scattered requests and issues throughout the year were resolved by email.
- ✓ Number of employee requests to participate in workshops: one (approved).
- ✓ Requests to obtain an extension of the sabbatical leave: two (one approved, one rejected by CHRD).
- ✓ Requests for a full-time sabbatical leave for Ph.D. and Master's degrees: two (one rejected, one approved).
- ✓ Request three months of unpaid leave to complete a research project: one (rejected).
- ✓ Request to cover study expenses: one (pending).
- ✓ Circulars published for college employees: two.

Committee members:

- ✓ Assistant Dean of Training & Community Service.
- ✓ Assistant Dean for Post-graduate Studies & Research
- ✓ Prof. Salam Al-Kindi Department of Hematology
- ✓ Dr. Mohammed Al Mushaiqri, Department of Human & Clinical Anatomy
- ✓ Chair–Hospital Training Committee.
- ✓ Representative of the Department of Biomedical Sciences

- ✓ School Superintendent.
- ✓ Director of Administration.

♣ Community Services Committee

Purpose:

A Community Services Committee in a College of Medicine and Health Sciences typically serves several essential functions.

- ✓ **Community involvement:** The committee fosters relationships between the university and the local community. This includes organizing outreach programs, health fairs, and educational seminars to promote health awareness and provide medical services to underserved populations.
- ✓ **Student involvement:** Provides opportunities for students to participate in community service activities. This participation helps students develop a sense of social responsibility and improves their practical skills through real-world experience.

Responsibilities:

✓ Planning and coordination:

- Develop and implement plans for community service projects in the college.
- Coordinate activities and events with community partners, students, and faculty members.

✓ Student and Faculty Engagement:

- Encourage and facilitate student and faculty participation in community service activities.
- Provide guidance and support to students and faculty involved in these initiatives.

✓ Partnership development:

- Establish and maintain partnerships with local healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Collaborate with partners on joint community health projects.

✓ Resource Management:

- Secure the funding, volunteers, and materials needed for community service events.
- Ensure efficient and effective use of resources in the college to achieve the committee's goals.
- Provide educational resources and materials to support community health education efforts.

✓ Promotion and advocacy:

 Promote community service initiatives within the university and the broader community.

- Advocate for public health issues and raise awareness of the importance of community involvement.
- **✓** Monitoring and Evaluation:
- Track and assess the results and impact of community service activities.
- **✓** Reporting and Documentation:
- Maintain records of community service activities, including participant data, results, and feedback.
- Prepare proposals for committee activities and funding sources.
- ✓ Ethical and Professional Standards:
- Ensure that all community service activities adhere to ethical standards and professional guidelines.
- Address any issues or challenges that arise in the committee.

➤ Outlook:

- ✓ The number of meetings held during the academic year 2023-2024 was 4 meetings.
- ✓ The number of activities was 28
- ✓ The number of community services representatives (staff) is 20.

Committee Achievements (Academic Year 2023-2024):

- ✓ Conducted and published rules and regulations for the activities, which helped the students and the committee organize the activities effectively.
- ✓ Students, staff, and faculty did 28 activities in different areas of medicine.
- ✓ Secured funding, volunteers, and materials necessary to support community service projects, demonstrating effective resource management and sustainability.

→ Other Committee Program Concerns

- ✓ Funding: Securing adequate funding for community service projects can be challenging.
- ✓ Volunteers: Recruit and retain enough volunteers, including students and faculty, to support various initiatives.
- ✓ Developing strategies for ongoing funding and support.
- ✓ Coordinate multiple activities and events, sometimes involving different departments and external partners.
- ✓ Managing logistics such as transportation, scheduling, and location arrangements.

Committee members:

Dr. Said Al Busafi ADTCS-Chair

Dr. Adhari Al Zaabi
Dr. Maha Al-Riyami
Dr. Maha Al-Jabri
Anatomy Department, SQUH
Biochemistry Dept., SQUH
FAMCO Dept., SQUH

Dr. Fatema Al Lawati Medicine Department, SQUH

Dr. Zaaima Al- Jabri Microbiology Department, SQUH

Dr. Hamed Al-Riyami Member, Department of Genetics, SQUH

Ms. Lubna Al Hashmi Student, SQU Ms.Umaima Al-Adawi Rapporteur

Entrepreneurship Committee

Purpose:

✓ Enhance entrepreneurial skills among students and faculty, promoting innovation and a mindset of problem solving.

Responsibilities:

- ✓ To recommend to the College a plan of training courses and undergraduate and postgraduate studies for the development of its staff and faculty.
- ✓ Establish college criteria that guide the selection of staff/faculty for study/training programs that comply with the SQU rules and regulations.
- ✓ Distribute information on available training/study opportunities.
- ✓ Receive, evaluate, and approve applications for training/study programs.
- ✓ Follow-up, monitor and evaluate the progress of delegated staff/faculty for training/study programs.
- ✓ Act on any other related matters that may be assigned to the Committee by the Dean.
- ✓ Report periodically to the College Board on the progress of the Committee work.

Outlook:

✓ Number of meetings held during the academic year 2023-2024: 4

Committee Achievements (Academic Year 2023-2024):

- ✓ Initial assessment (January 2024): Conduct a KAP survey among staff and students to gauge their understanding, attitudes, and practices on entrepreneurship in healthcare.
- ✓ Memo Campaign (Throughout): Send regular memos, newsletters, and emails to students and faculty highlighting general information, success stories, available resources, and upcoming events to foster continued interest and awareness of entrepreneurship. The memos should be brief, short, and attractive to attract the attention of students and staff.
- ✓ College Forum (February 2024): Organize a talk at the College Forum sessions (College of Medicine and Health Sciences) to spread awareness of the role of entrepreneurship in health sectors.

✓ One-Day Workshop (April 2024): Organize a workshop that covers fundamental entrepreneurial skills, such as ideation, business planning, and funding options. Invite successful medical entrepreneurs and venture capitalists as guest speakers for insight.

Committee members:

Dr. Muna Al Maskari Chairman of the committee

Dr. Said Al Busafi Member
Dr. Amira Al Kharusi Member
Dr. Sara Al-Rasbi Member
Dr. Wafa Albulki Member
Mr. Mousa Al-Rawahi Member

Mr. Saif Al Mayasi Student Representative

Ms. Umaima Al Adawi Rapporteur

Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies



Dr. Arwa Al-Kindi, Ph.D
Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry &
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies

he Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies office administers all academic and organizational aspects of the pre-clinical program. It is a vital link between the Deanship of Admission & Registration and the College of Medicine & Health Sciences to ensure smooth student registration, progression, and transition to clinical training in phase III. This involves clarifying academic policies and regulations, strengthening academic advice, monitoring students' academic needs, and closely following up on their comments and feedback on the curriculum and assessment in coordination with the college curriculum and examination committees.

Additionally, the office also ensures that students have adequate mental health support during their educational journey.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

Academic advising:

The ADUS office organised an Academic Advising workshop on 12 March 2023 to alert faculty members to the fundamental role of an academic advisor in the progression of students academically. The workshop includes highlights of key SQU and college rules and regulations followed by case studies from real student scenarios and group discussions to better manage student guidance.

Mental health support:

ADUS works closely with academic advisors and course coordinators to identify students struggling with mental health issues and refer them to the Student Counseling Centre or the Student Wellness Clinic at SQUH. This year, the ADUS office, in collaboration with the Department of Behavioural Medicine and student groups, organised a mental health awareness day, named 'Discover Peace' on 25 September 2023, which was recognised by the participation of the University of Florida.

The distinguished guest speakers: Jannab Sayydaa Dr. Basma Al Said talked about mental health first aid for students of the medical field, while Saiyyida Dr. Wafa Al Busaidi addressed the topic of Resilience among Medical Students. After the talks, a panel discussion was held, featuring guest speakers and Dr. Mohammed Al Alawi, representing the SQUH Department of Behavioural Medicine. The discussion was moderated by our outstanding student Abdullah Al Lawati. The discussion focused on Imposter syndrome among medical students.

The panelists discussed the signs of this syndrome and how faculty can effectively mentor students through these challenges. They also addressed the impact of social media and advanced technologies on mental health and well-being. Additionally, the event featured five interactive and information booths from three well-known psychiatry clinics in Muscat, the Behavioural Medicine Department, and the Student Counseling Centre. These booths offered students access to information about available support programs, as well as tips and skills to help them overcome stress and burnout during their studies. In addition to these informative booths, students organized fun activities related to mental health and well-being. This awareness day was much needed for students who offered support and benefits to participants.

Dean list:

The ADUS office organised the Dean's list ceremony that recognised the exceptional achievement of 134 students in Phase I, II, and the BMS programme in both the fall and spring. Semesters in this academic year.

University Day Awards:

University Day Award- College Best Student 2023 Abdullah Mohammed Al Lawati Fatma Ahmed Al Hosni

University Day Award: College Best Teachers 2023

Dr. Hiafa Al Abri Dr. Adhari Al Zaabi

University Day Award- Best Academic Advisor 2023

Dr. Halima Mohammed Al Belushi

Curriculum Committee



Prof. Reem Abdawani, MD, FAAP, FRCPC, FRCPCHProfessor of Pediatrics, Rheumatology & Chairman of Curriculum Committee

1. Strategic Curriculum Planning and Innovation:

• Curriculum Development and Review:

o Phase I:

- Pre-planning and feedback meetings with course coordinators.
- Internal review of foundation courses & Enzymology course
- Pilot implementation of course portfolios for anatomy and pharmacology.
- Dissemination of knowledge on progression criteria.
- Evaluate the feasibility of introduction of hybrid teaching anatomy course

o Phase II:

- Pre-planning and feedback meetings with course coordinators Content and delivery modifications for MEDI3104 (Response to Infection and Pathobiology) and MEDI3105 (Hospital and Community Attachment).
- Introduction to Coursera courses.
- Curriculum mapping to address duplication and gaps in courses.
- Development of structured clinical skills student guides and standardised teaching methods.

o Phase III:

- Introduction of new training sites and rotations.
- Annual meeting with all course coordinators and tutors in affiliated hospitals to address challenges
- Changes in clinical rotation content based on tutor and student feedback
- Monitoring and feedback mechanisms for rotations.
- Organising the framework for blueprints for examinations.

Intercalated Phase:

- Proposition of a new degree plan including courses in health promotion, medical entrepreneurship, and AI in healthcare.
- Introduction of practicums in various fields such as health promotion, patient education, and clinical physiology.

2. Student-Centred Improvements:

• Student Feedback and Quality Improvement:

- Regular review of Course and Teaching Surveys (CTS) and rotation feedback.
- o Curriculum mapping and review meetings.
- o Changes based on student feedback for better course integration and relevance.

• Student Support and Wellness:

- o Creation of a wellness procedure to address mental health.
- o Update the student handbook with detailed regulations and support services.

• Early clinical exposure and practical experience:

- Organising a structured summer clinical placement programme for early clinical exposure.
- o Introduction of practicums in various fields such as health promotion, patient education, and clinical physiology for the BsHS programme.

3. Faculty Development and Recognition:

• Faculty Development:

- Workshops and training sessions for adopting new teaching methods such as Team-Based Learning (TBL).
- o Faculty appreciation awards based on departmental recommendations.
- Organisation of TBL workshop for faculty
- Introduction to team-based learning in integrated Module 1 (IM1).
- o Participation in assessment workshops (Minicex)
- o CHPE Workshop on teaching in a clinical environment.
- o College retreat on current trends in medical education.

4. Technological Integration:

Advancement with Technology:

- o Implementation of the Moodle platform for Phase III.
- o Development of an e-portfolio to monitor student performance.

5. Quality Assurance and Accreditation:

• Continuous Quality Improvement:

- Creation of quality improvement policies and procedures in preparation for WFME accreditation.
- o Creation of a college-based course and teaching survey for Phases 1 & 2 and Rotation Feedback Policy for Phase 3 to meet our course requirements.

• Accreditation and Compliance:

- o Finalisation of the standard on the curriculum within the WFME self-study report for accreditation.
- o Participation in workshops to review standards.

• External Reviews and Feedback:

Review and recommendations from external examiners for the BMS and MD programme.

o Alumni survey to gather feedback for the new programme design.

6. Research and Scholarly Activities:

• Undergraduate Research Projects:

- o Introduction to group projects in research methodology courses.
- o Modifications to the assessment components to ensure fair evaluation.

7. Effective use of resources:

• Resource Management:

- o Survey and recommendations for the effective use of reading resources.
- Review and return of books to save costs and renew subscriptions to essential resources such as UpToDate by Wolters Kluwer Health.
- o Introduction of cost-saving measures and resource optimisation based on student feedback and usage patterns.

By organising the achievements into these themes, alignment with continuous improvement and advancement in curriculum becomes more evident, showcasing the committee's commitment to strategic planning, innovation, student and faculty development, technological integration, and quality assurance.

Medical Library





Mr. Abdullah Al Hinai Director of Medical Library

OVERVIEW

The main thrust of our library policy has always been to develop and evaluate library resources and provide services more effectively. A significant achievement in this regard was online searching to support the programmes of the College of Medicine & Health Sciences, College of Nursing and University Hospital, especially in research.

STAFF:

Abdulla Salim Al-Hinai, Director Khadija Hamed Al- Yahyai, Department Director Jassim Mohammed Al-Hasani, Head of Information Services Department Saif Abdullah Al-AbrI, Head of Acquisition and Indexing Department Khadija Abdulla Al- Yahyai, Assistant Librarian Saif Ali Al-Muharbi, Senior Librarian B Zakiya Salim Al-Manwari, Assistant Librarian

SUPPORT STAFF:

Amal Mohammed Al-Hashmi, Coordinator Hanan Said Al-Jashami, Clerk

INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT:

1. User Register:

In 2023, there were no non-SQU library users. The total number of registered library users reached 6,702 compared to 2022, which is 6,342 as shown in the figure. This indicates a significant increase in the number of users, reflecting the increasing popularity and ease of access at SQULibrary.



Figure 1: Number of registered users

2. Visitors entrance:

Figure 2 illustrates that the number of visitors increased from 344,324 in 2022 to 357,906 in 2023, indicating a slight decrease. However, it is essential to note that this decrease is relatively small and may have little impact on overall visitor trends.

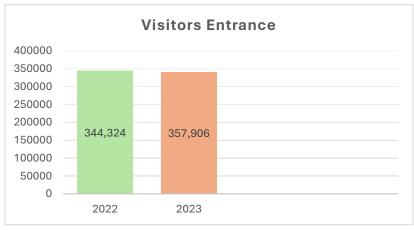


Figure 1: Number of Visitors Entrance

3. Borrowing books:

There is a comparison of the number of books borrowed in two successive years, 2022 and 2023, as shown in Figure 3. The number of books borrowed in 2022 was 158 and increased to 171 in 2023. This indicates an increase in borrowed books from 2022 to 2023. An increase in 11 borrowed books indicates a positive trend in the use of resources in the library throughout the year.

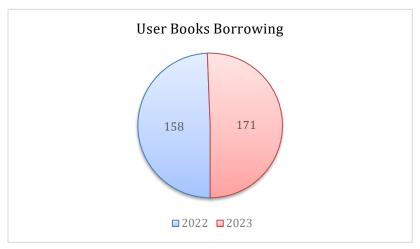


Figure 3: the number of User Borrowing

4. Study Rooms:

The data indicate that the number of study rooms reserved increased significantly from 35 in 2022 to 93 in 2023, as shown in Figure 4. The increase in the number of reserved study rooms indicates an increasing demand for private study spaces among students and ensures that there are enough study rooms to meet the needs of its students.



5. Internal borrowing:

In 2022, 51 items were borrowed from the library. However, the number of items borrowed increased significantly the following year, with 206 items loaned out, as shown in Figure 5. This indicates that the medical library provides modern books of interest to students and scientific research.

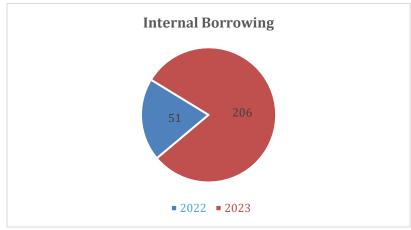


Figure 6: the number of items

6. Fines collected:

In Figure 6, 127.800 OR of 17 fines were collected from various library users in 2023.

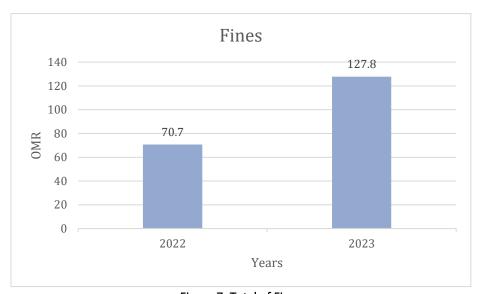
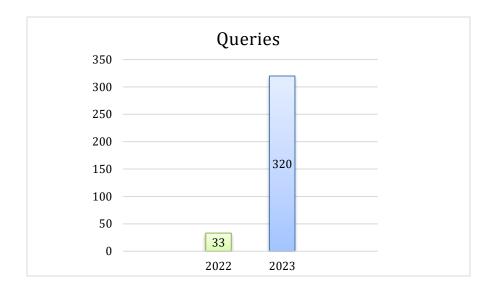


Figure 7: Total of Fines

7. Queries:

In Figure 7, there were 320 queries, most of them present and by phone. The inquiries were mainly related to library opening hours, book recommendations, and material availability.



8. Articles requested from the Medical Library

In 2023, the articles requested from the Medical Library were 597 articles as shown in Figure 8. This indicates that the SQU medical library is one of the Arab medical libraries that preserves its collection of electronic resources the most considering the financial crisis. Therefore, the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information has recognised the library as a model for other Arab medical libraries.

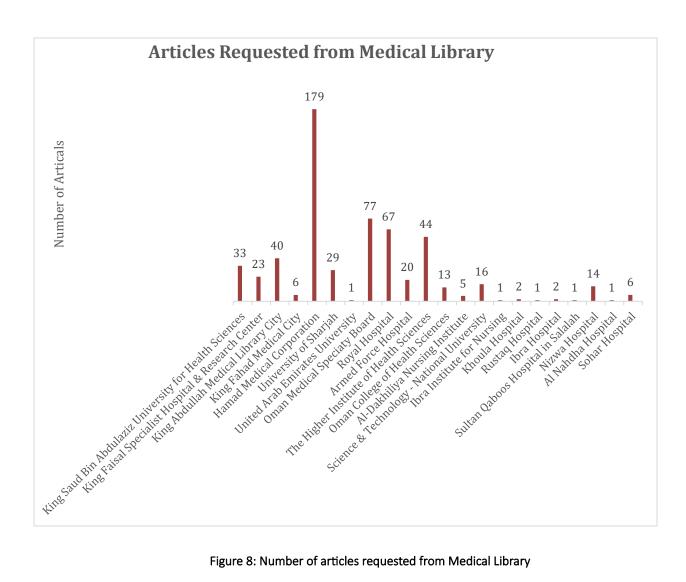


Figure 8: Number of articles requested from Medical Library

9. Articles requested by the Medical Library:

In 2023, the articles requested by other Libraries of the Medical Library were 151 articles, as shown in Figure 9.

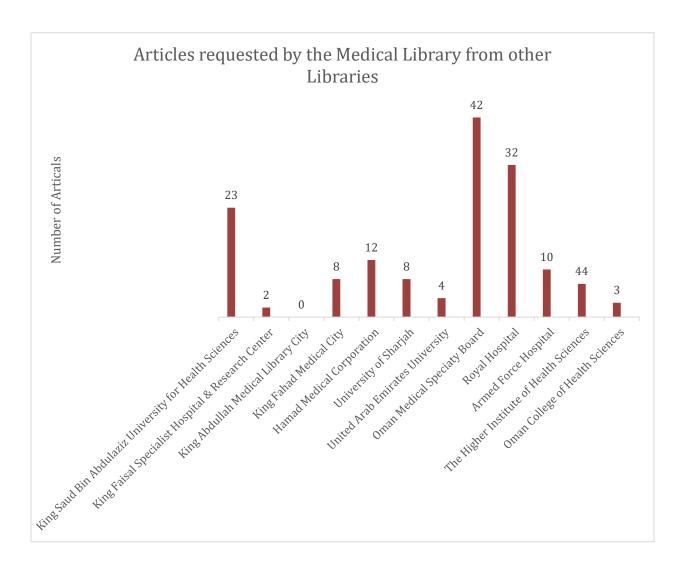


Figure 9: Number of articles requested by the Medical Library from other libraries.

Table 1 shows the number of articles required by personal and email from the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, College of Nursing & SQUH in 2023.

Table 1: The number of articles

Month	College of Medicine, College of Nursing & SQUH
January	5
February	1
March	33
April	12
May	19
June	4
July	2
August	9
September	2
October	5
November	18
December	5
Total	115

10.Training:

The Medical Library trained many students from the Information Studies Department at Sultan Qaboos University. In addition, the library trained several employees from the Oman College of Health Sciences. The director of the Medical Library also trained 60 postgraduate students from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at SQU and provided training to 30 nurses, researchers, and physicians at Sur Hospital.

11. Acquisition and Cataloguing Department Report

The Department of Acquisition and Cataloguing aims to provide the medical library with the latest and high-quality information resources in the medical field. Our goal is to organize this collection within the library and electronic system, facilitating easy and fast information retrieval through the online library catalog.

• Library Collection Department:

- In 2023, we catalogued 27 books purchased from the Muscat International Books Fair and received 40 theses from the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.
- The Medical Library has also subscribed to 9 pure medical databases, which include books, journals, and multiple resources as follows.

Table 2: List of subscriptions for the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing

#	Journal title/database	College
1	British Medical Journal (BMJ)	Medicine/Nursing
2	McGraw Hill Access medicine	Medicine/Nursing
3	Nature PG Journals (16 Titles)	Medicine/Nursing
4	American Physiological Society (APS)	Medicine/Nursing
5	AAAS Science Magazine	Medicine/Nursing
6	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW) Journals (37 titles)	Medicine/Nursing
7	DynaMed	Medicine/Nursing
8	CINAHL Plus with Full Text	Medicine/Nursing
9	MEDLINE with full-text	Medicine/Nursing

Table 3: List of Multidisciplinary Electronic Information Sources

#	Journal title/database	College / Centre / Department
1	ProQuest Dissertation & Theses Global	Multidisciplinary
2	ProQuest Central	Multidisciplinary
3	Academic ProQuest E-Book Central	Multidisciplinary
4	Cambridge University Press	Multidisciplinary
5	Oxford University Press	Multidisciplinary
6	Sage Premier	Multidisciplinary
7	Science Direct	Multidisciplinary
8	Scopus	Multidisciplinary
9	EBSCO eBook Collection	Multidisciplinary
10	Complete EBSCO Academic Search	Multidisciplinary
11	Taylor & Francis Journals + e-Books	Multidisciplinary
12	Springer Journals + eBooks	Multidisciplinary
13	Wiley Journals + e-Books	Multidisciplinary
14	GALE	Multidisciplinary
15	Encyclopaedia Britannica	Multidisciplinary

• Library Collection Management:

Based on usage, space constraints, and the need to develop our collection, the library recently conducted a weeding process, removing 1,373 periodicals (W1) and 164 (Reserved books) from the library collection. In addition, 17 books were maintained.

• Work Development:

- Due to the implementation of a new library management system, we have issued instructional guidelines to help users apply cataloguing rules, such as the RDA rules and Mark 21 instructions.
- o Each year, we conduct training sessions for numerous users on acquisition and cataloguing rules. As part of this initiative, our department has published a directory detailing the procedures for training users in acquisition and cataloguing.
- o This year, we trained users from the Department of Information Studies in the 'College of Arts and Social Sciences' and from the Ministry of Health.

• Coordination report

- o Preparing messages, sending them, and following up on their arrival to various departments at the university.
- Make a list of the library stationery needs and receive it, and then arrange them in the designated places.
- Organising the mechanism of booking study rooms for graduate students and receiving the room keys after the expiration of the reservation period.
- o Preparing and organising the schedule of interviews and visits for the library director.
- Amending the study room reservation form for graduate students in the library, which was presented to the library director and approved.

Medical Library Administration

One of the most essential responsibilities of the Medical Library Administration is the following.

- 1. To develop the careers and professionalism of its members, encouraging them to join training programmes and courses. Also, encourage them to share knowledge with their colleagues in the library. Many training courses and workshops were organised in the library:
 - Workshop about the "DIGBY programme" for libraries presented by Jassim Al-Hasani, Head of the Information Services Department at the Medical Library at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University: This workshop was intended to introduce the programme and teach staff how to download it to the phone and register for it. Also, explain the importance of using it in libraries and
 - Two workshops on the Reference Management Programme "Mandalay" presented by Khadija Abdullah Al Yahyai, Assistant Librarian in the Medical Library at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University.

training staff.

This workshop was intended to introduce the programme and its purposes and teach staff how to register. Also, train them how to use it.

 Workshop about the database "DynaMed" Presented by Zakiya Al-Manwari, Assistant Librarian at the Medical Library at the College of Medical and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University:

This workshop aimed to introduce the database and discuss the methods for searching it. Then compare it with the database "Up-to-date" and train the staff to use it.

• Lecture about "Relationships in the Work Environment" presented by Dr. Fatten Hamad, Associate Professor in the Department of Information Studies at the College of Arts and Social Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University:

The lecturer talked about the importance of relationships between colleagues in the work environment, the factors that affect these relationships, and their impact on performance and productivity at work. In addition to defining the steps taken to improve relationships with co-workers and what problems these relationships may face, it will also include examples of activities that can contribute to building healthy and positive relationships at work.

• An interactive lecture on "Fire Safety" presented by Saif Al-Abri, Head of the Cataloguing and Acquisition Department at the Medical Library at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University and Khadija Abdullah Al-Yahyai, Assistant Librarian at the Medical Library at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University.

The two lecturers discussed the culture of safety in the workplace and how fires occur. In addition, they explain the rules of dealing with fire, extinguishing methods, and the difference between the types of fire extinguishers. They also provided all staff with emergency contact numbers.

• An interactive lecture on "Effective Communication Skills with Users in Information Institutions" presented by Mr. Abdullah Al Hinai, Director of the Medical Library at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University: The lecturer and staff participated in answering several questions about the need for communication with others. In addition, they discussed the importance of effective communication and the elements and types of communication. In addition to that, they also discussed communication problems, the seven keys to effective communication, and strategies used to interact with library visitors and users.

- Lecture on "Health and Safety at Workplace" presented by Khadija Hamad Al-Yahyai, Deputy Director of the Medical Library at the Medical Library at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University, and Zakiya Al-Manwari, Assistant Librarian at the Medical Library at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University. The lecture discussed the most critical potential hazards in work sites and occupational hazards that cause occupational diseases. It also explained how to evaluate risks and prevent accidents in the workplace.
- 2. To support knowledge and how to use medical databases, several seminars were held attended by library staff and some of the college's faculty members and students:
 - Primal Picture
 - o Anatomy complete
 - o Ovid
 - o Karger
 - o DynaMed
- 3. A discussion room for postgraduate students has been prepared on the library's ground floor with a capacity for eight people.
- 4. Proposing and launching the "Sharek" initiative for knowledge sharing among medical library staff.
- 5. Make a guideline for the "Information Services department" work in the Medical Library.

1. Download statistics:

No.	Full Text Journals Download	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1.	AAAS / Science Magazine	116	179	234	150	136	89	116	111	196	313	384	251	2275
2.	ASM Complete Journals Collection	51	72	85	167	77	46	61	92	103	216	280	134	1384
3.	BIOONE Complete Collection	36	65	63	73	46	24	22	32	35	80	97	133	706
4.	BMJ & BMJ Group Journals – All	302	309	398	284	290	174	213	262	449	632	471	389	4173
5.	Cambridge University Press Journals	130	243	372	339	175	168	258	172	270	640	577	520	3864
6.	EBSCO Academic Search Ultimate	478	739	796	769	454	160	221	205	318	476	441	298	5355
7.	Emerald Publishing	962	1777	1975	1585	1415	607	891	769	1366	1843	1705	1572	16467
8.	IOP Institute of physics	239	491	398	383	354	468	446	335	479	810	760	722	5885
9.	Lippincott William & Wilkins Journals	125	153	219	181	105	135	110	92	186	348	398	348	2400
10.	Nature Publishing Group Journals	1142	1124	1587	1389	1364	861	904	913	1129	1955	2159	2015	16542
11.	Oxford University Press Journals	509	860	992	650	532	474	562	765	702	1576	1755	1133	10510
12.	SAGE Premier Journals Package	1064	1393	2055	1518	1399	961	1217	1128	1691	2980	3260	2614	21280
13.	Science Direct (Elsevier's Freedom Collection)	14190	16792	23732	20761	19311	14220	16316	16657	22309	37146	40295	32934	274663
14.	SciFinder Scholar	249	104	63	142	243	266	173	140	210	521	1241	245	3597
15.	Springer Journals (Core Collection)	4806	6250	8523	7666	6835	4020	4184	4596	5960	9598	11193	11115	84746
16.	Taylor & Francis Journals Package	1749	2855	3173	2555	2598	1659	1745	1689	3106	5532	5625	4891	37177
17.	Wiley-Blackwell Journals (Full Collection)	3352	3870	4990	4344	3940	2091	2752	3011	4531	7418	7703	6233	54235

2. Statistics search done:

No	. Bibliographic Databases:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1.	EBSCO: CINAHL-R-Database (AAS)	383	470	706	527	498	301	463	386	616	864	731	559	6504
2.	EBSCO: Medline (from AAS)	403	551	728	615	609	348	540	455	800	1572	1015	776	8412
3.	McGraw Hill's Access Medicine Package	387	1373	1175	613	153	112	317	378	664	1051	1882	1,111	9216

Medical Education and Informatics Department



Dr. Nadia Al WardyAssociate Professor, Biochemistry Department &
Head of Medical Education and Informatics Department

1. Message from the Head of the Department

I am pleased to highlight the contributions and achievements of the Medical Education and Informatics Department over the past year- 2023. Our department remains at the forefront of providing essential educational support to the College, affiliated staff, and other health professionals.

The Clinical Skills Laboratory continues to play a pivotal role in the College. Equipped with a wide range of instruments, simulators, and manikins, it has evolved into a comprehensive learning environment. This facility not only supports the acquisition of both theoretical and clinical knowledge across the curriculum, but also provides our medical students with a critical opportunity to develop and refine their clinical skills. By allowing students to practice physical assessment and procedural skills under simulated conditions, the lab ensures that they are well prepared before performing these tasks on real patients.

The Medical Informatics Section within our department has significantly advanced the integration of cutting-edge technologies in teaching, research, and service. Through increasing faculty competency in the use of these tools, conducting telemedicine conferences and workshops with international institutions, and continuously evaluating the effectiveness of medical informatics products, this section has reinforced our commitment to modern, technology-driven medical education. Additionally, their ongoing support in hardware maintenance and troubleshooting has been invaluable in ensuring that our technological infrastructure remains robust and effective.

Our Student Counseling Service continues to provide crucial support to our students, offering confidential one-on-one counseling and conducting workshops on both professional and personal

development. The inclusion of a workshop on counselling skills for healthcare professionals as part of the Pre-clerkship program is a testament to our dedication to comprehensive student development.

In addition, the department has maintained a strong focus on faculty development. Through regular workshops in teaching, learning, assessment, and e-learning, we strive to enhance the pedagogical skills of our staff, ensuring that our educational offerings remain at the highest standard.

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by our department. We remain committed to our mission of providing outstanding educational support and look forward to continuing our excellence journey in the coming year.

2. Faculty achievements

Dr. Ken Masters served as an external examiner for Ph.D. in Flinders University, Melbourne, Australia University of Cape Town, South Africa

3. Educational Highlights

The Department IT team has successfully upgraded several teaching facilities, which will help improve the educational and administrative process in the University. The following have been achieved:

- Replacement of 71 PCs in the Teaching Computer Lab 2219.
- Replacement of 28 PCs in all teaching laboratories and seminar rooms.
- Replacement of LCDs and upgrade of visual equipment in all teaching laboratories and seminar rooms.
- Installation of new videoconferencing facilities (cameras, microphones, and computers) in the Medical Lecture Theater, College Board Room, 2006 Meeting Room, 2214 Lecture Hall, and Teaching Computer Labs 1105, 1106, and 2219.
- initiated the purchase of a new exam platform for the college (MedExams).

4. Clinical Activity

The Clinical Skills Lab hosted the following workshops and examinations:

- International Workshop on Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) on Human Organs (Cadavers), September 2023
- o Clinical Skills Training Workshop in Pediatric Intensive Care (PICU), October 2023
- MRCP Clinical Examination with Real Patient for the British Board of Internal Medicine, March 2023
- o MRCP Clinical Examination with Real patient for the British Board of Internal Medicine in October 2023

5. Community initiative

The Department has organized the following workshops:

- o Certificate in Health Professions Education: 11-17 October 2023
- Workplace-Based Assessment Workshop: 9 May 2023
 - o The Clinical Skills Lab hosted the following workshops and examinations:
- International Workshop on Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) on Human Organs (Cadavers),
 September 2023
- o Clinical Skills Training Workshop in Pediatric Intensive Care (PICU), October 2023
- MRCP Clinical Examination with Real Patient for the British Board of Internal Medicine, March 2023
- MRCP Clinical Examination with Real patient for the British Board of Internal Medicine in October 2023

Keynote / Guest speaker / Invitation talks

- a. Al Wardy N. 2023 Item analysis workshop: 30 April 2023
- b. Al Wardy N. 2023 New faculty program: CETL 14 September 2023
- c. Masters K. 2023. AI in medical education and education research. AMSE 2023, 5-7 October, Iasi, Romania [Keynote Address].
- d. Masters K. 2023 Ethical considerations of artificial intelligence. OMSB Family Medicine Residence Program: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, 23 September, Muscat, Oman [Invited talk].
- e. Masters K. 2023. An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Terminology. OMSB Family Medicine Residence Program: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, 23 September, Muscat, Oman [Invited talk].

Member of Clinical Service Committees

a. Al Wardy N. Arab Board Exam Committee: September 2023



Medical Departments



Vision

The Medical Departments aspire for:

- Provision of patient-oriented, comprehensive, high-quality, evidencebased, and cost-effective health care.
- Development and maintenance of quality medical education for students and residents.
- Promotion and dissemination of knowledge important to clinical, teaching, and improvement of health care of the population.



Mission

The Medical Departments at Sultan Qaboos University and Hospital are academic and clinical departments dedicated to the advancement of their specialties through the development of outstanding educational, research, and clinical care programs aimed at teaching and providing high-quality, patient-centered health care. Thus, the mission of the Departments is to enhance the health of the population through leadership in quality education, research, and patient care.

Overview

In this section, we will introduce the various medical departments at SQU and SQUH. These departments are the Department of Behavioural Medicine, Child Health, Emergency Medicine Family Medicine and Public Health, Internal Medicine, and Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy. The medical departments within SQU and SQU hospitals play a crucial role in various areas, including teaching, research, clinical services, and community outreach. These departments are responsible for providing high-quality healthcare services while also contributing to the advancement of medical knowledge and the well-being of the community. In terms of teaching, medical departments serve as training grounds for aspiring healthcare professionals, such as medical students, residents, and fellows. They provide a platform for these individuals to gain practical experience, learn from experienced physicians, and develop their clinical skills. Thus, helps shape the future of healthcare by producing competent and compassionate medical professionals. Research is another significant area where medical departments excel. They actively engage in scientific investigations, clinical trials, and studies to advance medical knowledge and improve patient care. This commitment to research ensures that patients receive the most up-to-date and evidence-based care available. Clinical services are at the core of medical departments' responsibilities. They provide comprehensive medical care to patients, ranging from routine outpatient services to complex interventions and admission services. These departments work collaboratively with other healthcare professionals to provide coordinated and multidisciplinary care, ensuring the best possible outcomes for patients. Beyond the hospital walls, medical departments also actively engage in community services. They organize health fairs, awareness campaigns, and educational programs to promote preventive care and healthy lifestyles. Medical departments often partner with local organizations, schools, and community centers to provide healthcare services to underserved populations. By reaching out to the community, medical departments aim to improve overall health and wellbeing, reduce health disparities, and enhance public health.

Department of Behavioural Medicine



Dr. Hamed Al SinawiHead of Behavioral Medicine
Department

Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Behavioral Medicine is an interdisciplinary field of medicine concerned with the integration of knowledge in relevant to health and illness. Therefore, the Department expertise from diverse fields psychological sciences, anthropology, sociology, and clinical psychiatry. The available services are one of the best in the country and were one of the very first to provide modern diagnosis and research on behavioral medicine. In its application to clinical services, the Department provides state-of-the-art treatment and care of psychiatric disorders, much of it based on the innovative research done by our faculty. The Department has fully functioning services that address and furnish health care needs relevant for all developmental milestones: 'cradle to the grave'. Thus, the Department caters to the need for child and adolescent mental health services, general adult mental health services as well as geriatric psychiatry. On this ground, the department strives, as an academic and clinical department, for excellence in learning, teaching, and research and to be the flagship department in its field in Oman and the region. There is ample evidence to suggest that most illnesses, whether physical or psychiatric, are invariably influenced by biological, psychological, and social factors and so this biopsychosocial approach is necessary. In this context, in the approach to learning, teaching, and research, efforts are made to determine how biopsychosocial factors are central to the predisposition, onset, course, and outcome of most disorders. Whilst communicable diseases continue to be a source of attrition in a country like Oman, there is also the 'silent epidemic' of non-communicable diseases, often precipitated and exacerbated by an individual's behavior and lifestyle which can result in serious distress and often fatal diseases. Research in the Department has specifically focused on the psychosocial determinants of health and ill health since biological sciences alone are not sufficient in the prevention of and intervention in matters related to disease.

Educational Highlights

In Phase III of the M.D. Programme, the Department remains actively involved in the Junior Clerkship Clinical Rotation. The Junior Clerkship is a 7-week rotation during which students have the opportunity to practice taking a focused history, performing a focused physical examination, proposing differential diagnoses, and planning the treatment. The group will be divided into two subgroups, one at SQUH and the other at Al Masarrah Hospital.

In 2023, the Junior Clerkship timetable was modified. During the first two and a half weeks of rotation, students will remain assigned to the same general-adult team. This adjustment provides several advantages for both students and tutors. The maintenance of continuity within a single team allows students to gain a deeper understanding of the patient's cases. In addition, this arrangement allows tutors to closely monitor the progress and performance of their assigned students, providing timely guidance and feedback. During a one-week rotation, students will spend two days with the Child Team and two days with the Old Age Team, providing them the opportunity to explore various subspecialities within behavioural medicine. The topics of geriatric SLT are delivered to students in collaboration with the SQCCCRC (Geriatric Oncology and Palliative Care), Urology, Pharmacy, Nutrition, and Physical Therapy.

The Department also contributes to undergraduate teaching in pre-Clerkship by delivering lectures, tutorials, and mini-CEX examinations, as well as in Hospital and Community Attachment (MEDI3105)-Phase II. Furthermore, the Department delivers lectures and tutorials for the following courses: Respiratory module (MEDI4205); Cardiovascular system (MEDI4204); Alimentary system (MEDIC4303); Evolution of medicine and evidence-based medicine.

Clinical Activity

The Behavioural Medicine Department is one of the few departments nationally that provides specialist tertiary referrals. On the hospital side, the combination of a rich referral base at the clinic and an innovative service delivery model has created a strong path of growth for the department. It has a multidisciplinary team approach designed for the optimal treatment of patients and the training of medical students. The Department has a support staff of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, and social workers.

The department offers clinical services such as General Adult Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, and Student Psychiatry Clinic. A wide range of assessments and treatments are offered using various conceptual models, including neuropsychiatry, psychotherapy, and behaviour therapy. It also offers a comprehensive consultation-liaison psychiatrist, as well as a psychosocial intervention under the umbrella of social work. In December 2023, the department launched the "Psychological Well-being Clinic", dedicated to serving SQU staff and their spouses.

Scholarly Activities



On 13 September 2023, the Department of Behavioural Medicine, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Oman Alzheimer's Society, organised a National Alzheimer's Symposium. The symposium aimed to present recent advances in dementia diagnosis and treatment, address challenges related to dementia care in Oman, explore the needs and experiences of caregivers, and practice the use of screening tools. The event brought together experts, professionals, and caregivers to share knowledge, exchange insights, and improve understanding of Alzheimer's and dementia-related issues in Oman.

On 25 September 2023, in collaboration with the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies at CoMHS, a mental health awareness day was organised titled 'Discover Peace'. Dr. Mohammed Al Alawi was the guest speaker for the panel discussion representing the department and psychologists participated in the interactive booths.





On 28 November 2023, the Department collaborated with the SQUH Development & Quality Directorate to organise a talk for hospital staff titled "Mental Well-being at Work", delivered by Dr. Nasser Al Sibani.

Community Initiative

The Department of Behavioural Medicine has been at an affront in providing community services to Oman and its people. The Department has been instrumental in promoting mental health and addressing the various mental health needs of the population. Among the many and varied community services, this Department has excelled in Mental Health Education and Awareness Programmes, School-based Mental Health Programmes, Support Groups, Crisis Intervention, Collaboration with Primary Care Providers for continuity of services, Cultural Competency and Sensitivity Training, and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programmes. The department has also been involved in stigma reduction initiatives. Concerted efforts have been made to launch campaigns to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues in the community, as well as to engage in advocacy efforts to promote a more supportive and understanding societal attitude toward individuals with mental health disorders.



Talk in the University of Technology and Applied Sciences



October 10, 2023 World Mental Health Day



October 24, 2023 Participated in PDO Mental Well-being Event



October 19, 2023 World Trauma Day



Participated in PDO volunteers program to raise public awareness about Alzheimer's disease



Webinar with Houna Mental Health Association in Kuwait to mark World Alzheimer's month



Recording the podcast for mental awareness



Dr. Mohammed Al Alawi, participated as one of the speaker in student identity summit organized by Student Counselling Center, SQU













Faculty Achievements



Dr. Mohammed Al Alawi was awarded as the best published research award led by a young researcher at the National Research Award organized by Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation



Dr. Mohammed Al Alawi was nominated as one of the representatives of the Sultanate of Oman in the 72^{nd} Lindau Nobel Laureates Meetings

Publications

Book Chapter

Ammar Albanna, Khalid Bazaid, Bibi AlAmiri, Hanan Derby, Hassan Mirza, Finza Latif, Ahmed Malalla Al-Ansari, Yasser Ad-Dab'bagh. Chapter 13 - Training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the Arab Gulf region. *In book: Shaping the Future of Child and Adolescent Mental Health* (pp.339-365) January 2023. DOI:10.1016/B978-0-323-91709-4.00015-9

New Staff

In 2023, the Department of Behavioural Medicine welcomed new additions to the team, enhancing the capacity to provide high-quality mental health services. The department is delighted to introduce the new staff members:



Dr. Siham Al Shamli Specialist psychiatrist

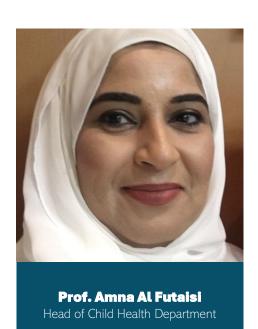


Ms. Saba Al Azri Psychologist



Ms. Aseel Al Toubi Psychologist

Department of Child Health



Message from the Head of the Department

The Child Health Department is one of the pioneering departments of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences (COM&HS) and SQU Hospital (SQUH). The department accounts for more than a third of total SQUH admissions and provides exemplary patient care from birth to adolescence, encompassing all sub-specialties. It also plays a major role in achieving excellence in all aspects of child health care in the country and the community.

Academically, the department has well-developed undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and training programs in collaboration with other local and international educators and institutions to share the latest information and best practices. Department members are actively involved in all educational activities and committees of the College of Medicine and have contributed significantly towards the development and implementation of the Medical College curriculum. Further, the department provides training and activities to foreign undergraduate medical students during their elective rotations.

The department has also highly integrated postgraduate training programs and is equipped with excellent Clinical Teaching Units (CTU's) run by experienced medical doctors as lecturers. The Child Health Department started the first CTU in Oman and has been complimented by various international medical educationists and accreditation agencies. Various departments have followed thereafter.

The department is a training site for pediatric residency under the Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB). It also teaches and trains junior doctors, preparing them for various examinations affiliated with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and the Arab Board.

The Department of Child Health has an impressive research portfolio with various completed and ongoing projects. The members of the Department have disseminated their research

Educational Highlights

- Initially, he taught an "approach to child with status epilepticus" to residents, GFPs, interns and students assigned in each block regularly.
- Initiation and establishment of internship teaching in the child health department.

Clinical Activity

- The new Botox clinic has started since October 2023, every Tuesday.
- New afternoon clinics start.
- Receiving a new EEG system and machines, replacing the old one.
- Starting Thursday daycare IVIG therapy for patients with immunodeficiency (pediatrics and our SQUH patients growing to adulthood, continuity of care).
- Subcutaneous immunoglobulin therapy (home therapy) for immunodeficiency patients.
- Introducing Lanadelumab (biologic) for patients with hereditary angioedema improved disease control and quality of life.
- The application process for the new fellowship in paediatric infectious diseases started. Approved from the MAC and SQUH board and now submitted to the OMSB.
- Launching paediatric bleeding clinic which runs every third Sunday of each month.
- Increasing the number of new patients and their follow-ups in the Monday neurology clinic.
- The attempt to re-establish chronic peritoneal dialysis services in SQUH- is still in progress.
- Expanded rheumatology service to include 2 clinics per week.

Research Highlights

- Organised the first Omani international conference on Allergy and Clinical Immunology on December 20, 2023.
- Speaker at three regional conferences in allergy & Immunology in 2023.
- Guest speaker at the third neurology conference in Salalah.
- Organising committee member of the International Day of Awareness of Epilepsy.

- **Al-Mamari W**, THE FIRST PARENTS SUPPORT CONFERENCE for the Eastern Mediterranean /MENA Regions, 8-10 August 2023.
- **Al-Mamari W**, Technical meeting to plan for the development of virtual learning materials: 9-10 November 2023, Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Al-Mamari W**, Expanding the network of newborn, child, adolescent, and school health experts in the Eastern Mediterranean region. EMRO, Cairo, Egypt, 25-28 September 2023.
- The Developmental Unit participated in the organisation and provided speakers at the National Training Workshop on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other Developmental Disorders. May 08 -10, 2023, Muscat, Oman.
 - o Organisers: Al-Mamari W, Jalees S., Idris A.
 - o Speakers: Al-Hadrami S., Jalees S., Al-Jabri M.
- Al-Hadrami S., **Jalees S.**, National Training Workshop on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Other Developmental disorders. May 08 -10, 2023, Muscat, Oman.
- The Developmental Unit invited Prof. Eric Fommbone to SQU and presented a joint talk by **Dr. Al-Mamari. W, Idris** A, Alsaeigh. A, 27 Nov. 2023.
- Mirghani M., 3rd Annual MENA Metabolic & Genetics Conference, Muscat, Oman.
- Guest speaker: Virtual speaker presentation on Superior mediastinal syndrome misdiagnosed as foreign body aspiration A case report at the 4th edition World Congress on Paediatric and Neonatology held between November 6 and 8 2023 in San Diego, USA.
- Speaker: 3rd Annual Oman Paediatric Society International Conference, 24 February 2023. 'Multidisciplinary approach to cystic fibrosis'.
- **Attended a conference** 'The Omani International Conference on Allergy and Clinical Immunology'. From 9th-10th December 2023 in Muscat.
- Bursting, but not in a good way. Oral presentation. Australia and New Zealand Paediatric Infectious Diseases Group (ANZPID) workshop Oct. 2023.
- Bursting, but not in a good way. Infectious Diseases City-wide meeting. Nov 2023.
- Bone and joint infections in children. Oral presentation. First Paediatric Symposium. Royal Hospital. Oct. 2023
- Immunisation in immunocompromised hosts. Oral presentation. First Allergy and Immunology Conference. Muscat. Dec 2023.
- Member of the organising committee of the conference of the Oman Society of Hematology.
- Speaker: 3rd Annual Oman Paediatric Society International Conference, 24 February 2023. 'Multidisciplinary approach to cystic fibrosis'.
- Virtual speaker presentation on superior mediastinal syndrome misdiagnosed as foreign body aspiration: A case report at the 4th edition World Congress on Paediatric and Neonatology held between November 6 and 8 2023 in San Diego, USA.
- 1. Basic Life Support Course (BLS) and Paediatric Advanced Life Support Course (PALS): Certified 2023
- 2. Attended the 1st OSR symposium 'Empowering Excellence in Rheumatology Care' (Dec 2023)
- 3. Attended the 'Blended Data Analysis Modules' workshop (Oct 2023)
- 4. Attended the "Guselkumab from trial to real patient experience" (Oct 2023)
- 5. Attended the CliPS online training session on "Lupus Nephritis" (Sep 2023)

- 6. Attended the "ArLAR Autoinflammatory Diseases: Let us start from the beginning" (July 2023)
- 7. Attended the CliPS online training session on "Clinical presentation and guidelines for the management of KD" (June 2023)
- 8. Attended the "Expert opinion on the identification & management of SoJIA" (June 2023)
- 9. Attended the 'PSA management from theory to practice' (June 2023)
- 10. Attended the "Real life examples SoJIA case discussions" (June 2023)
- 11. Attended the 'SoJIA: Challenges and therapeutic options" (June 2023)
- 12. Attended the 'Expert opinion on the identification & management of colchicine resistant FMF' (May 2023)
- 13. Attended the "Real life examples FMF case discussions" (May 2023)
- 14. Attended the "Meet the Expert" activity in Oman (March 2023)
- 15. Attended the "3-day symposium on cytokine release syndrome in children" (March 2023)
- 16. Attended the annual ArLAR23 Kuwait Meeting, Kuwait (March 2023).
- 17. Attended the Musculoskeletal US course in Oman (February 2023)
- 18. Attended the SQUH workplace assessment workshop (February 2023).

Community Initiative

- Days of awareness for patients
 - World diabetes day celebration (school diabetes education campaign) November (14,21,28) / December (12) 2023.
 - o 10x diabetes hour (monthly programme live on social media) collaborative programme between ASPED-Diapoint.
 - o 3x School visits to raise awareness about diabetes.
 - o Epilepsy Awareness Day, March 23, Muscat Mall
- Preparing three simple coloured leaflets for common neurology disorders in Arabic to be distributed to the public and patients.
- The Developmental unit took the lead to adapt the Care for Child Development Programme, WHO / UNICEF, to the Omani context. (Collaboration between the SQU and WHO EMRO & Oman offices)
- The Developmental team took the lead in adapting the "Global Scales for Early Development", WHO/MSD/GSED package v1.0/2023.9 into the Arabic context. (Collaboration between SQU and WHO EMRO & Head Quarter offices) (Al-Mamari W., & Idris A.) Website: https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/data-research/global-scale-for-early-development
- Elected members of the Arab Board of Health Specialisations, Paediatric Training, and Curriculum Committee. Examination committees

New Faculty & Promotion

College

Prof. Amna Al Futaisi, Professor Prof. Muna Al Saadoon, Professor

Hospital

Dr. Najwa Al Rahbi, Sr. Consultant

Dr. Laila Al Yazidi, Sr. Consultant

Dr. Fatema Al-Amrani, Consultant

Dr. Hilal Al Riyami, Consultant

Dr. Anwar Al-Omairi, Consultant

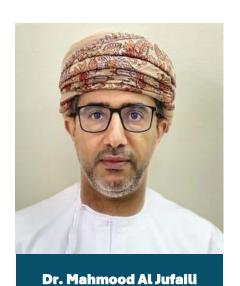
Dr. Abdulrahman Al Saadi, Consultant

Dr. Naema Al Shabili, Consultant

Dr. Musab Al-Jabri, Medical Officer, Allergy/Immunology

Dr. Iman Ibrahim, Specialist A, Allergy/Immunology

Department of Emergency Medicine



Head of Emergency Department

Message from the Head of the Department

The emergency medicine department is made up of highly trained, mostly board-certified emergency physicians. Our team includes senior consultants, consultants, senior specialists, consultants, senior medical officers, & medical officers. We are extremely proud of our staff & our continued achievements in both our academic and clinical portfolios, where we work collaboratively to ensure high quality patient care, education & research.

The Division of Paediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital is committed to providing infants, children, and young adults with the highest quality of care. We treat medical and surgical conditions as well as trauma. All patients are accepted in the emergency department from birth until their 13th birthday, for acute illness and those with chronic diseases that require paediatric expertise. The division serves almost 15000 children each year and provides acute care and saves children's lives 24/7, in addition to providing teaching and research.

Our highly trained and experienced staff deals daily with a wide spectrum of diseases and trauma, from minor illnesses and injuries to resuscitation of a patient with severe trauma or stabilisation of children with complex medical conditions.

We strive to develop and maintain the best clinical care for children in our Emergency Department through Clinical Practice Guidelines and collaborations with the Child Health Department.

Since its establishment in 1986, the Department of Emergency Medicine has been the leader in emergency medicine in Oman. Our high standards of care have inspired other hospitals throughout the country. The Department is one of the major tertiary care facilities in the governorate of Muscat, having its own helipad used by different national agencies in the event of a disaster or in other emergency situations. We treat approximately 52,000 patients annually and receive patients from all corners of the country.

Acting as the first meeting for most patients who come to the hospital and serving as the main hub for patients admitted to various departments of the hospital, it is no wonder that the Department is the busiest place in the whole hospital. Triage being at the forefront of the Department has always been a focus of concern. Continuous adoptive changes are made from time to time to keep up with an ever-increasing number of patients.

The vast majority of trauma patients are brought to them by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Based on the Anglo-American EMS system, the main area of our hospital is the densely populated Seeb *wilayat* (district). On arrival at the hospital, the emergency medical personnel hand over patients to the trauma team, which is equipped for major trauma cases. The trauma team comprises emergency physicians, surgeons, anaesthetists, and orthopaedic surgeons.

After initial management, all patients requiring surgery are immediately transferred to the operating theatre. The Department has very good patient survival rates.

Currently, the Department has 29 beds with a fully equipped triage desk one lead nurse, two paramedics, and two nurses to ensure prompt medical attention for all patients. In addition, a new ambulatory care area is established to deal with Category 3 patients; two teams consisting of one doctor & one nurse are working simultaneously. The Department has the most modern equipment, including different types of ventilators, conventional and non-invasive, sonographic machines, and an arterial blood gas machine.

To fulfil the vision of the Department to be a national model for the development of international-recognized emergency medicine, various training and learning activities are organized for department medical personnel. In turn, a wide range of healthcare professionals receive training in the Department, including undergraduate and postgraduate medical and nursing students from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) colleges of medicine & health sciences and Nursing; SQU Hospital staff; students from the Oman Medical Speciality Board (OMSB), and medical staff from the Royal Court and Royal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Health Institute, the Royal Oman Police, and interns from the Oman Medical College in Sohar.

The Department also actively participates in different national and international research projects. The Department regularly participates in various disaster drills organized by concerned government agencies. These drills aim to familiarise participants with the procedures needed for real-time disasters

Educational Highlights

Residents participating in the OMSB programme of Emergency Medicine, Family & community medicine, and surgery rotate through the Department at various stages of their training. They are exposed to real emergencies and given the opportunity to handle patients independently as an active member of the team under the supervision of the shift supervisor. They were given the opportunity to exercise and improve recently learned skills such as suturing and other simple procedures; they were also taught new skills such as intubations, central line placement, basic bedside ultrasound, etc. Senior residents treat more critical patients in the bay area under the supervision of the doctor in charge of the shift. In addition to clinical activities, academic activities of a minimum of 4 hours per week are mandatory. These activities include case or topic presentations, journal clubs, workshops, etc.

Clinical Electives & Selective

The department regularly receives foreign medical students for clinical electives. This year 19 medical students from different countries joined.

The department regularly receives medical students on a senior fellowship as a selective. This year 12 medical students joined us for their clinical selection.

Clinical attachment

The department regularly receives foreign medical graduates for clinical internships. This year, eight graduates from different countries joined us for their clinical affiliation.

Clinical Activity

Moving to a new building required a lot of planning and rearrangement, especially the made had occurred without any new additional budget. We worked on the concept of maximising the utilisation of existing resources while acquiring additional resources.

The establishment of Specialised Emergency Care Units is a new model adopted by our Emergency Department, Ambulatory care, Peds unit, Obstetric unit, etc.

Maximising the use of existing human resources.

Developing new staff by having an active CME and JC programme & JC that keeps our physicians up to date with the latest practices of emergency medicine.

Working with different hospital departments to smoothen the flow of ED patients, and patients waiting to be admitted by clinical services remains our main challenge, many solutions have been proposed and implemented by us, and we are still far from achieving our goal.

Integrating technology to smoothen the care of our patients, establishment a dashboard to monitor flow, and introducing an electronic system in triage to stand arise the process using CTAS app.

Our old emergency department is still working on and will open soon for paediatric emergencies.

Updating the student curriculum and taking care of students, interns & residents remain our major mission.

Worked with our research teams to publish high-quality work from our ED, recently published RCT in the annals of emergency medicine, high impact journal in the world of emergency medicine, also another RCT on ventilation of sick COVID patients in the critical care medicine journal.

Establishing educational areas on the third floor, with halls & a meeting room that helped run our educational activities, as well as hosting the MRCP board exams in our ED.

Collaborating with external stakeholders such as MOH HCs, police EMS, the new cancer centre, the private sector, etc. to ensure a smooth transfer of patients among different health institutions.

Taking many steps to ensure the delivery of quality work & patient safety by responding to patient complaints, following our KPIs, and monitoring clinical, educational, and research activities in the department.

Rapid Assessment Triage System (RAT) - Establishment of ambulatory care

To address the problems of overcrowding, a 'Rapid assessment triage system' (RAT), started 7 years ago, is running successfully. RAT is a focused evaluation of patients delivered in a limited time frame using the Triage team approach. In this system, two teams work in triage. Each team consists of a physician and a nurse who assess the patient simultaneously and try to categorise them according to CTAS (Canadian Triage Assessment System) categories, and therefore the plan of the patient is made. By implementing this system, a decrease in DOOR to Doctor Time of less than 10 minutes is expected with a decrease of more than 90 minutes in the overall door-to-discharge time of the patient from Triage after rapid assessment.

Committees and the formation of new committees

The maximum number of staff is used in committees with the activation and reorganisation of old committees and the formation of new committees. The heads of all committees report directly to the HOD. Every committee is given a time-orientated task. The committees are doing their job efficiently, as identified last year. The new HOD is of special interest to all committees.

Committees:

- EMD CPD committee
- EM Quality Committee
- Exam Committee

Community Initiative

- Hospital Food Fair 18/02/2023
- Epilepsy Day Awareness Programme 16/03/2023
- New Nurses Orientation Programme 17/05/2023
- World Patient Safety Day, 17/09/2023
- World Trauma Awareness Day 19/10/2023
- Covering all University graduation ceremonies and activities on campus

Research Highlights

CPD Activities of the Emergency Medicine Department

EMD CPD activities such as symposiums, conferences, and workshops have been in operation successfully since 2017. The Current Committed is led by the Head of Department, Dr. Mahmood Al-Jufaili, and chaired by Dr. Ashraf Elshehry. During the year 2023, the following activities were successfully organised and presented by the committee.

- 1. Basic POCUS workshop 18-19 March 2023, Emergency Medicine department
- 2. Emergency Invasive Procedure 10 April 2023
- 3. Current Trends in Emergency Medicine Symposium, 12 June 2023

Directorate of Training and Continuing Professional Development (DTCPD) Activities

The Department is an integral part of the DTCPD teaching staff involved in carrying out BLS (Basic Life Support), ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support), and PALS (Paediatric Life Support) Courses

Professional Examinations

Many of our doctors appeared for international professional exams. Our doctor has cleared MCEM, UK. Different parts of membership of the College of Emergency Medicine (MCEM) have been cleared by many of our staff. Most doctors have updated their ACLS, PALS, and ATLS certificates.

New Faculty & Promotion

New Staff

- Dr. Darpanarayan Harza Specialist
- Dr. Mamatha Punjee Raja Rao Specialist
- Dr. Athulya Vilayil Jayadevan Specialist
- Dr. Mohammed Alfateh (Medical Officer)
- Dr. Aya Aalhamad (Medical Officer)
- Dr. Majed Al-Bahri, Paediatric Specialist
- Dr. Dr. Omaima Ashoor Paediatric Specialist
- Dr. Alshaimaa Mohamed Paediatric Specialist
- Dr. Rabiya Faraz, Paediatric Specialist
- Dr. Wagar Ali, Paediatric Sr. Medical Officer

Promotion

- Dr. Hilal Mohammed Al-Barwani promoted to Sr. Consultant
- Dr. Hajar Said Sulaiman Al-Hogani promoted to Specialist

Department of Family Medicine and Public Health



Prof. Mohammed Al AzriHead of Family Medicine and Public
Health Department

Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health at Sultan Qaboos University, nestled within the College of Medicine and Health Sciences and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, stands as a beacon of excellence in both academic and clinical spheres. Our commitment to advancing the fields of family medicine and public health is unwavering, driven by our mission to elevate healthcare standards and improve the well-being of our community.

At the heart of our department lies a robust educational framework designed to cultivate the next generation of healthcare leaders. We offer comprehensive training programs that blend theoretical knowledge with practical experience, ensuring our students and residents are well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of the populations they serve. Our curriculum is continually updated to reflect the latest advancements in medical science and public health, fostering an environment of continuous learning and professional growth.

In the realm of research, our department is a powerhouse of innovation and discovery. We spearhead pioneering studies that address pressing health issues, ranging from chronic diseases and mental health to preventive care and health policy. Our research endeavors are not confined to academic pursuits; they are geared towards tangible improvements in public health outcomes. By translating research findings into actionable strategies, we strive to make a real-world impact on health practices and policies.

Clinically, we are dedicated to providing high-quality, patient-centered primary care. Our clinical services are designed to be accessible, comprehensive, and tailored to the individual needs of our patients. We emphasize a holistic approach to healthcare, considering the physical, emotional, and social determinants of health. Our clinicians are not only caregivers but also advocates for their patients, working tirelessly to ensure the best possible health outcomes.

Our mission extends beyond the confines of our university and hospital. We aim to be leaders in the broader healthcare landscape, influencing policy, advocating for public health initiatives, and collaborating with other institutions to address global health challenges. By integrating education, research, and clinical care, we seek to set new standards in family medicine and public health, both locally and globally.

Through our leadership in quality education, innovative research, and compassionate patient care, the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health is dedicated to improving the health of the population. We are committed to fostering an environment where excellence thrives, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of advancements in healthcare.

Educational Highlights

The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health has adopted three new courses:

- ➤ 'Health Promotion and Education' for students in the intercalated phase
- ➤ 'Epidemiology in HealthCare Planning', an elective course for post-graduate students.
- ➤ "Health Leadership and Management" is an elective course for post-graduate students. It has also started for the first time the part-time master programme in addition to the ongoing full-time programme.

Clinical Activity

The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health has started four new specialty clinics to better serve patients who visit the facility, and these are:

- ➤ Women Health Clinic
- Occupation Health Clinic
- Smoking Cessation Clinic
- > Endocrine Clinic

Community Initiative

The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health has organised various community activities, including the following.

- The decision is in your hands (Smoking Cessation Campaign).
- Shape your health (obesity and its related comorbidities)
- Test and ensure a campaign for the early detection of chronic diseases.
- September Patient Safety Day.
- Camp for breast cancer awareness.
- The Department has published an educational brochure on smoking cessation in both Arabic and English versions to be used in the hospital and for the public.

Research Highlights

- The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health has started CPD sessions for its staff every month, inviting experts from various fields inside and outside the university to help equip staff with the latest advances in medical fields.
- It has also graduated a number of master's and Ph.D. students in the field of epidemiology and public health and has also received new postgraduate students for the coming academic years.
- The department conducted 2 workshops (Tobacco dependent treatment and Motivational interviewing).
- The department has contributed 3-poster presentations at the SQUH research day 2023.

New Faculty & Promotion



Dr. Hana Al Sumri Assistant Professor Research in Women's Reproductive Health and Child Health

Dr. Sanaa AL Sumry, Consultant

Dr. Maha AL Jabri, Consultant

Dr. Yaqoub ALSaidi, Consultant

Dr. Maryam Al Kiyumi, Senior Specialist

Faculty Achievements



Professor Mohammed Al Azri Received HM Research Grant 2023



Dr. Maisa Al KiyumiAppointed the Head of the Hospital Training Department

Dr. Sanaa Al Sumry: Received the Best Doctor award on SQU Day 2023

Dr. Moon Chan: Received the award of Best Researcher on SQU Day 2023

Department of Internal Medicine



Message from the Head of the Department

Welcome to the Department of Medicine, one of the largest and most comprehensive clinical departments within the College of Medicine & Health Sciences and the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. In 2023, our department continued to excel in its mission, encompassing nine major medical subspecialties. Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Infectious Diseases, General and Acute Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Pulmonology, and Rheumatology.

This year, we have made significant strides in setting the highest standards in quality teaching and training, pioneering clinical research, and providing compassionate patient-centred care. Our educational programmes have been further enhanced to ensure future medical professionals are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their respective fields. We have also expanded our research initiatives, focussing on innovative approaches that aim to advance medical science and improve patient outcomes.

I am privileged and honoured to lead a team of highly qualified, competent, considerate, and passionate professionals. Each member of our team remains dedicated to our shared goals of teaching, discovering, and healing. This dedication ensures that we provide exceptional medical care while also contributing to the ongoing advancement of medical knowledge and practice.

2023 Highlights and Achievements

Educational Excellence: This year, our department introduced several new training modules and workshops, which have received positive feedback from both students and faculty. Our commitment to high-quality education has resulted in higher satisfaction rates and improved performance among our medical students and trainees.

Research Innovations: 2023 was a landmark year for our research efforts. We have successfully secured multiple research grants and published numerous high-impact articles in leading medical journals. Our research teams made significant discoveries in areas such as novel therapeutic approaches in cardiology and new treatment protocols in infectious diseases.

Patient-Centred Care: Our focus on patient-centred care has led to improved patient outcomes and satisfaction rates. We implemented new patient care protocols that emphasise holistic and personalised treatment plans, resulting in better health outcomes and improved patient experiences.

Community involvement: The department actively participated in various community health initiatives and outreach programmes. These efforts helped raise awareness of important health issues and provided essential medical services to underserved populations.

Looking Forward

As we reflect on our achievements in 2023, we also look forward to new opportunities and challenges. Our goals for the coming year include further improving our educational programmes, expanding our research initiatives, and continuing to provide top-notch patient care. We are committed to fostering an environment of excellence and innovation that will benefit our students, faculty, and the community at large.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Department of Medicine. Together, we will continue to make significant contributions to the field of medicine and improve the health and well-being of our community.

Educational Highlights

- A. Weekly or twice monthly journal clubs in the different units
- B. AHA obtained Advanced Stroke Life Support Certification (ASLS) course instructor certification. The course is to be introduced to residents.
- C. Debate activity every two months in the Department Morning Meeting
- D. Establishment of a meta-analysis and systematic review online course in collaboration with OMSB
- E. Proposal for the Adult Infectious Diseases Fellowship Training Programmeme [advanced phase]
- F. OMSB Neurology Training Programme formally approved by the OMSB Board (to be conducted at SQUH and Khoula Hospital). The course is being initiated with the first resident intake in 2024.
- G. Initiated TeleMedicine-Based Neurology Seminars and Journal Clubs with the Oman Neurology Society (monthly event): participation in Oman Hospitals.
- H. Developed a blueprint for the neurology component of the medicine rotation of the JC and SC examinations.

- I. Daily lectures for OMSB residents, interns, and medical students rotating in cardiology.
- J. The Cardiology Fellowship programme was approved by the Hospital's MAC.
- K. Adult and Paediatric Cardiology Fellowship Weekly Arrhythmia Lecture Series
- L. Creation and execution of a Basic ECG Course for GFP residents for the academic year 2022-2023.
- M. Significant contribution to the academic half-day of Internal Medicine.

Clinical Activity

- 1. Establishing a syncope clinic
- 2. Proposition of the Heart Failure Clinic
- 3. Proposal for an extra General Medicine clinic
- 4. Using point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in routine patient assessment, especially in high dependency.
- 5. Establishing a new HIV clinic
- 6. Establishing a virtual HIV clinic three months a year.
- 7. Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme [work in progress]
- 8. Virtual neurology clinics are held every month for neurology patients.
- 9. The endovascular thromboectomy service for patients with acute ischemic stroke started at SQUH (with the support of Khoula Hospital)
- 10. The Botox Clinic was started as part of the Movement Disorders Clinic at OPD
- 11. Bronchoscopies performed in the Minor Operating Theatre (OT) 108.
- 12. Bronchoscopies are performed in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).
- 13. Approximately 120 sleep studies
- 14. Around 120 NIV titration
- 15. Approximately 620 tests for lung function.
- 16. Interventional Structural Heart Clinic
- 17. Syncope clinic (with Neurology, Internal Medicine & Clinical Physiology)
- 18. Establishment of mitral clip programme
- 19. Establishment of the left atrial appendage closure programme.
- 20. Increased CCU and HD, 2 Purple bed capacity.
- 21. Addition of Perindopril and Perindopril Single Pill Combinations to the Formulary
- 22. The addition of sacubitril/valsartan for our heart failure patients.

Community Initiative

- 1. Conducted a school visit to Alsoud International School to inspire and discuss the pursuit of a career in medicine. Dr. Jawaher.
- 2. HIV Awareness Day 2023
- 3. Antibiotics Awareness Day 2023
- 4. Epilepsy Awareness Day conducted: 16 March 2023
- 5. Stroke Awareness Event: Dec 2023
- 6. Organisation of the World Kidney Day campaign at the SQUH fountain area, March 15, 2023.
- 7. Organization of Organ Donation Campaign and Walkathon Dec 2022.
- 8. Outreach community arrhythmia lecture series in Muscat, Suhar, Sur, and Salalah.
- 9. Participation in Oman Heart Club lectures.

Research Highlights

- 1. 23rd Conference of Internal Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand (IMSANZ NZ) 1-3 March 2023. Prevalence, Recognition, and Risk Factors of Constipation among Medically Hospitalized Patients. Oral presentation by Dr. Jawaher.
- 2. Quality of Mortality Data, in cooperation with WHO, MOH, SQUH and OMSB. 11-12 June 2023, Muscat. Dr Abdullah and Dr Salim presented and organized.
- 3. Medical Documentation and Death certification workshop by MOH, 23-25 October 2023. Dr Salim presented.
- 4. Interview Panel Calibration: Preparation for Interview Period-Academic Year 2023-2024, Muscat, 30 January 2023
- 5. OMSB Academic Review Day (1/2023), Muscat, 23 May 2023
- 6. PD Forum 1/2023 14 June 2023
- 7. Milestones Revision Workshop, Muscat, 24 September 2023
- 8. Developing Faculty Competencies in Assessment Course Day 4 (Simulation Refresher), Muscat, 11/9/2023
- 9. Evidence-Based Medicine Workshop, Muscat, 19 November 2023
- 10. Supervision Workshop OMSB, Muscat, 7th November 2023
- 11. Guest Speaker for medical research (arranged by Dr Al Alawi)

- 12. 3rd Oman Neurology Conference, 2-3 Sept 2023. With Oman Neurology Society. At Salalah, Oman.
- 13. 4th Oman International Stroke Conference conducted with Oman Stroke Society: 8-9 Dec 2023 Muscat.
- 14. Organization of the first Oman Society of Nephrology and Transplant International Nephrology Conference, Salalah, September 2023.
- 15. Organization of the first Oman Peritoneal Dialysis Conference Feb 2024.
- 16. Presentation at Solid Organ Transplant Seminar, Oman Urological Society Update series. February 2023- Muscat- Novotel Hotel.
- 17. Presentation at National Organ Transplantation program, Workshop of Kidney transplantation June 2023, Muscat- Grand Hayat Hotel.
- 18. Clinical remission T2-high Severe Asthma (Feb 2023, Dubai)
- 19. SABA over-reliance and asthma exacerbations: are they related? (March 2023, Muscat)
- 20. Identifying the Risk Earlier in COPD (May 2023, Dubai)
- 21. T2 Severe Asthma: GINA Updates, Eosinophilic Asthma and TRAVERSE
- 22. study (May 2023, Muscat)
- 23. GOLD 2023: A closer look at the key changes in COPD treatment strategy
- 24. (December 2023, Muscat)
- 25. The Role of Triple Therapy in COPD Management (Nov 2023, Muscat)

New Staff & Promotion

	Name	Unit	Promoted to	Date of Promotion
1.	Dr. Ahmed Al Qassabi	Neurology	Senior Consultant	January 2023
2.	Dr. Moahmmed Al Rawahi	Cardiology	Senior Consultant	January 2023
3.	Dr. Jamal Al Aghbari	Pulonology	Senior Consultant	January 2023

	Name	Position	Unit
1.	Ahmed Kamal	Specialist	Cardiology
2.	Mehwish Butt	Specialist	Neurology
3.	Ali Sajjad	Specialist	Neurology

4.	Jawaher Al Noumani	SHO	General Medicine
5.	Mohammed Al Nassar	Senior Specialist	Gastroenterology
6.	Masoud Kashoob	SHO	Pulmonology
7.	Abjad Al Busaidi	SHO	Infectious Diseases
8.	Mirza Saifullah Baig	Consultant	Pulmonology
9.	Samiha Al-Siyabi	Specialist	Rheumatology
10.	Mojahed Abdullah Hassan	SHO	Nephrology
11.	Ali Mohammed Ali	Specialist	Gastroenterology
12.	Mohammed Shoaib	Consultant	General Medicine
13.	Farhan Maimoon	Specialist	Cardiology

Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy



Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacy plays an active teaching role in both the College of Medicine & Health Sciences' curricula as well as in the College of Nursing's educational program at Sultan Qaboos University. The Department also offers a Master's and Doctoral degree in Clinical Pharmacy and contributes to the teaching of other master's courses. In addition, the Department coordinates the Basic Pharmacology and Nutrition course to Nutrition students at the College of Agriculture and Marine Sciences. The research activities of the Department embrace different areas of experimental pharmacology and therapeutics, and clinical pharmacy.

Reflecting on our achievements in 2023, we are proud of our department's progress across clinical service, teaching, scholarly activities, and community engagement.

In clinical service, our participation in events like World Pharmacy Day and initiatives such as cost-effective drug procurement underscore our commitment to patient care and safety.

Our teaching efforts have been impactful, providing valuable education and practical training to future pharmacists. Scholarly activity has been robust, with 28 published articles contributing to the advancement of pharmacy practice and research.

Community service remains central to our mission, evident in our participation in events like World Epilepsy Day and initiatives like Medications in Ramadan.

Despite challenges like space limitations and staffing shortages, our determination and innovation continue to drive us forward.

Together, let's continue striving for excellence and making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Educational Highlights

• A new cohort of four Clinical Pharmacy MSc students started their SLT teaching of 6th-year Medical Students, 4 sessions per semester.

Clinical Activity

- Establishment of a new queuing system in the pharmacy to reduce waiting time.
- Enhancing and streamlining the supply chain for intravenous fluids has enabled us to designate a dedicated space for the upcoming launch of the Pediatric Pharmacy.
- Reducing the cost of purchasing medications by increasing the percentage of approved generic drug procurement compared to innovative medications (total saving: 977,148.872 Omani Riyals).
- Effective participation in the Unified National Drug Procurement, contributing to cost reduction and initiatives to improve the quality of medications.
- Managing to activate the Repeat Prescription feature with the help of HIS, which had a positive impact on patients and healthcare providers.

Community Initiative

Conducting and participating in several events such as:

- World Pharmacy Day in SQUH on 25/9/2023
- World Pharmacy Day in collaboration with MOH in Al-Mouj on 28/9/2023
- Patient safety day in SQUH on 17/9/2023
- World epilepsy day in Muscat Mall on 16/03/2023
- Nephrology day in SQUH on 15/3/2023
- Medications in Ramadan event in SQUH on 26-30/3/2023
- Medications in Ramadan event in Grand Mall on 16/3/2023

Research Highlights

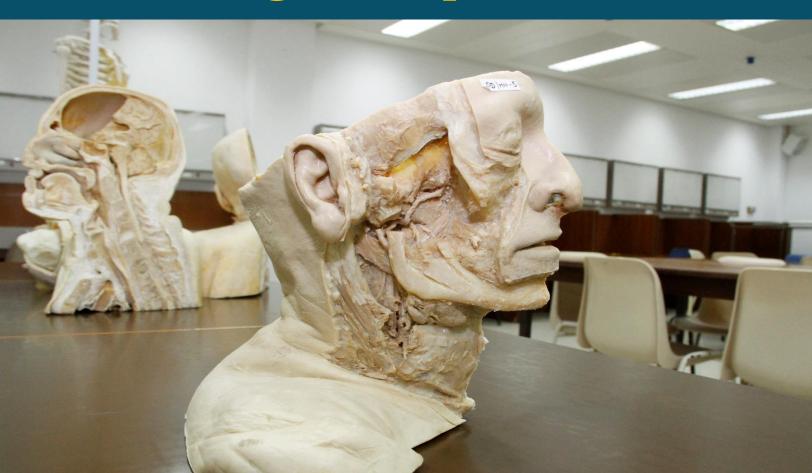
- Shireen Al Zadjali Guest Speaker DUPHAT
- Juhaina Al Muqbali Guest Speaker Oman Pharmaceutical society
- Juhaina Al Muqbali Guest Speaker DUPHAT
- Intisar Al Riyami Guest Speaker Oman Pharmaceutical Society
- Intisar Al Riyami Precision Medicine Debate Royal Hospital
- A faculty obtained an internal grant (8K OMR).

New Staff & Promotion

- **Dr. Yousra Nomeir,** a newly appointed assistant professor, was also welcomed to the Department.
- **Prof. Mohammed Al Zaabi** has been appointed as the new Head of Department, effective September 2023.



Surgical Departments



Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care

Message from the Head of the Department



Dr. Nasser Al KemyaniHead of Anesthesia and Intensive
Care Department

The Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care is a dynamic and very productive department of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH). Our key roles are in the operating theatre and the intensive care unit; administering different types of anesthetics and caring for the critically ill, respectively.

Approximately 7000 anesthetics were delivered in 2023, much of it for complicated tertiary surgical care. The department prides itself on an unparalleled esprit de corps.

The department strives to ensure that quality clinical services are provided for our patients. Good atmosphere for learning is provided for undergraduate and postgraduate education for students and residents respectively.

Clinical Services:

In addition to the elective procedures, the department provides 24-hour emergency anesthesia services to the entire hospital. This also includes referrals from other health institutions. Our department manages a 15-bed adult ICU. Medical and surgical patients who need critical care are looked after by a well-trained team of doctors and nurses. Our anesthesiologists and intensivists also play an important role in the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Trauma and Disaster Management services.

The Pre-anesthesia Assessment Clinic (PAC) has been functional since March 2009 and is open three days a week. The PAC acts as a one-stop centralized preoperative facility for patients undergoing elective surgery. Patients who have to undergo surgery are assessed here for anesthesia fitness. It yields a high level of patient and surgical satisfaction and is now an integral part of modern multimodal perioperative programs.

Pain management is an integral part of our departmental functions with acute and chronic pain management services. Pain Management Clinic (PMC) is functioning twice per week. Interventional pain management procedures were also back in September 2023 twice a week on a day-care basis.

Post operative Pain Service after working hours and on the weekends was started from the month of December 2020 with the help of our pain nurses. This was to solve any issue regarding Pain control, PCA, and Epidural and to improve Pain control and Postoperative outcome.

The department also has an efficient team of respiratory therapists since April 2011. Currently, there are 10 therapists working around the clock 7 days a week. They provide essential services to patients in the ICU and the High Dependency Units (HDU). They take care of all mechanically ventilated patients in the ICU. They also take active participation in cardiopulmonary resuscitations in the ICU, intra-hospital transfer of mechanically ventilated patients, assessment of respiratory mechanics, performance of Arterial Blood Gases (ABG), and initiation and weaning of NIV for HDU patients. They also help train nurses, nursing students, and medical students on the management of NIV.

New Services:

To be able to decrease the waiting list for MRI of pediatric patients under anesthesia, we have initiated to run the service to be twice a week (on Mondays & Thursdays) instead of once in the latter part of 2023.

The new role of iPAC was also introduced in September 2023 to help with PAC from (14:00HRS -21:00HRS). In addition to its role in covering the long-running ORs when necessary. This corresponded with the opening of ORs no. 7, 8 & 9 of the new theatre extension and the expansion of coverage of the anaesthesia team.

Training Services:

Training Courses & CPD Activities:

The Department is actively involved in the teaching of courses organised by the SQUH Directorate of Training & CPD. These include the Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) provider course; the ACLS Recertification course; the Basic Life Support (BLS) provider course; the BLS Recertification course; the Pain Management Course, and the Central Venous Access Device course.

Continuous Medical Education (CME) Activities:

Every Monday there is a CME session in the Department. Topics of recent interests and updates in Anesthesia and Intensive Care are included as a CPD activity. Residents are encouraged to attend. Doctors of the department actively participate by presenting interesting topics which prove beneficial to the staff. Members of the department are also part of the Oman Society of Anesthesia and Critical Care (OSAAC) which is involved in regular CME activities and scientific sessions.

Teaching:

Integrated module and Preclerkship Teaching

We are involved in teaching medical students bedside clinical examination of simulated or actual patients. This takes place in the Skills Lab or in-patient ward.

Junior Clerkship Program

During the one-week Anesthesia rotation of the Junior Clerkship, students participate in the Department's clinical activities. Topics relevant to basic anesthetic management are discussed. The students are given 'hands-on' experience on manikins as well as patients, under the close supervision of anesthesiologists. The tutorials are aimed at making the students understand the use of airway adjuncts, respiratory equipment, central venous and arterial cannulation, regional blocks, and drugs used in anesthesia as well as cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Senior Clerkship Program

The department also contributes to senior clerkship teaching where students rotate for one week in the Intensive Care Unit. Students perform procedures (central line and arterial line insertion) on manikins in the skills lab under supervision. They also rotate in the ICU. The emphasis is mainly on respiratory failure, the basics of mechanical ventilation, shock and neuro-critical care, and brain death.

Postgraduate Program

Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB)

A 5-year residency program in anesthesia was started in September 2007 under the OMSB. The Department is actively involved in teaching and assessment of the residents in the Anesthesia program. Some of our staff are active members of the Scientific Committee of the program. There is an assistant program director onsite to ensure the smooth running of the training.

Scholarly Activities:

International Conference Presentations

Kuriakose N. Anesthesia Preoperative Surgical Assessment. SickKids Advanced Pediatric Cardiology Program. The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada; February 10, 2023.

National

A workshop titled "Use of Ultrasound in Anesthesia and Intensive Care" was conducted on May 5th and 6th 2023 by the Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care of SQUH. The purpose of this workshop was to improve the knowledge and skills of the use of ultrasound in regional anesthesia and intensive care. The target audience was OMSB residents anesthetists and intensivists from all over Oman, especially those working at peripheral hospitals. The workshop included external speakers: Dr Amar Salti (Consultant at Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi), Dr Santosh Mehrotra (Consultant at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford NHS, United Kingdom), and Dr Mani Prabha (Consultant Radiologist, Basildon University Hospital, NHS, United Kingdom). The internal SQUH speakers included: Dr Azza Al-Abri, Dr Pushkar Desai, Dr Rohit Date, Dr Amira Al-Sabahi, Dr Rama Krishna, and Dr Tushar Mantri. This workshop is aimed at improving the use of ultrasound in the field of anesthesia and intensive care, thereby improving patient safety and quality of care in Oman.

Staff:

September 2023 brought a change in leadership when Dr. Nasser Al Kemyani became the Head of the Department and Dr. Azza Al-Abri the Assistant Head. Dr. Nigel Kuriakose left the department during the first part of 2023 after his long service and contribution since 2011, and Dr. Bhawana left the department in the latter part of 2023. Dr. Jawaher Al-Sulaimi got her promotion as a Consultant in Pediatric anesthesia. The department welcomed the new additions of Dr. Kusuma Halemani (Consultant, Transplant anesthesia), Dr. Hanan Al Hinai (Senior specialist, Pediatric Anesthesia), Amira Al Sabahi (Senior specialist, Regional Anesthesia), and Dr. Thuraiya Al-Hadifi (Specialist). Dr. Rashid Al-Shehaimi has been promoted to ICU Specialist. Dr. Thuraiya and Dr. Rashid went soon after for their fellowship training abroad in the subspecialties of Chronic pain and Intensive care, respectively. Dr. Safa Al-Aufi is continuing her residency in Canada (R4).

Department of Dental and Maxillofacial Surgery

Dr. Ali Al MullahiHead of Dental and Maxillofacial
Surgery Department

Message from the Head of the Department

The Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery Department at the College of Medicine & Health Sciences (COM&HS) and the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH) is committed to providing Best-practice clinical care and education. The Department offers a wide range of dental, oral, and maxillofacial services to the Sultan Qaboos University community, hospital in-patients, and referred outpatients. It is also a tertiary center for referrals for oral and maxillofacial surgery, special needs dentistry, orthodontics and paediatric dentistry.

The Department provides a comprehensive range of dental services including primary dental care, oral hygiene therapy, orthodontics, prosthodontics, comprehensive paediatric dentistry, and oral & maxillofacial surgery treatments. Our team is dedicated to providing highest quality dental and maxillofacial care to our paediatric and adult patients with complex medical conditions, ensuring that they receive evidence based clinical care in a safe and supportive environment. The Department also plays a vital role as a member of the trauma team at SQUH, providing treatment to patients with facial injuries and repairing facial bone fractures. The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit has expanded its specialized services to include Orthognathic Surgery (jaw corrective surgeries), treatments for temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders with different treatment modalities such as medications, arthrocentesis, and surgeries, and corrective surgeries for sleep apnea to address abnormal jaw positions.

In addition to the comprehensive range of dental services, the Department provides specialized orthodontic care for patients with craniofacial defects, especially those with cleft lip and palate.

Our Department provides dental and maxillofacial surgery services at our outpatient clinic or in the operating theatre for inpatients or day care visitors.



STAFF

Head of Department

Ali Al-Mullahi, Senior Consultant, Paediatric Dentistry

Assistant Head of Department

Muntasar Al-Hinai, Senior Consultant, Orthodontist

Faculty:

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Unit

Abdulaziz Bakathir, Senior Consultant, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS), Head of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Unit

Khamis Al-Hasani, Specialist OMFS (Promoted to Specialist B)

Sami Al Kindi, Specialist OMFS (New staff)

Nabeel Syed, Specialist OMFS

Mehboob Pasha, Senior House Officer

Dental Unit

Sameera Al Anqoodi, Senior Specialist, Prosthodontist (Head of Dental Unit) Amur Al-Hajri, Consultant, Special Needs Hana Al-Raisi, Senior Specialist, Endodontist Azza Al-Shaidhani, Specialist, Paediatric Dentistry Madelin Hernandaz, Specialist Aftab Malik, Senior House Officer Ayoub Al-Kharousi, Senior House Officer (On study leave)

Other Medical Staff

Younis Al-Abri, In-Charge Nurse Ibtisam Al-Ambusaidi, Medical Nurse Safa Al-Nabhani, Medical Nurse Joycie Escobillo Maghari, Medical Nurse Afrah Abdulbaqi, Dental Surgery Assistant Sulaiman Al-Maqimi, Dental Surgery Assistant Sarah Al-Siyabi, Dental Surgery Assistant Khamis Al-Mufargi, Dental Laboratory Technician

Support Staff

Nadia Al-Ghafri, Coordinator

TEACHING PROGRAMS

Undergraduate Program

Preclinical Program

In addition, our department continued to provide teaching for the Oral Health rotation of the Intercalated Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMS) program throughout 2023.

Postgraduate Program

The Department continued participating in the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery and General Dentistry residency from the Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB).

Clinical Attachment

The department also provides clinical attachments for recent dental graduates to enhance their clinical exposure and further prepare them for their careers.

CLINICAL & DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

The Department continued to provide primary dental treatment as well as specialised comprehensive paediatric dentistry, special needs dentistry, orthodontics, prosthodontics, and oral & maxillofacial surgical treatments. The number of patients seen and treated at the Department's outpatient setting was 10,831 [Figure 1]. The number of dental and maxillofacial surgery cases treated under GA was 394 [Figure 2].

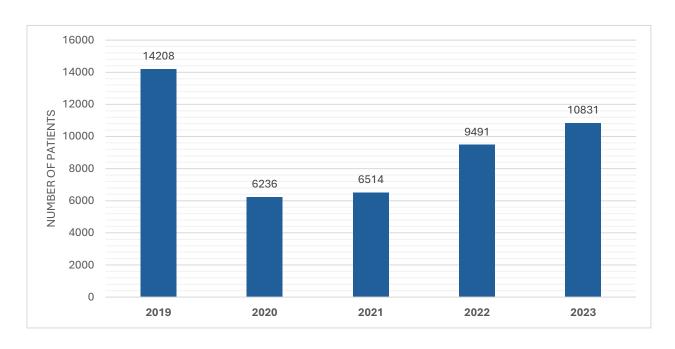


Figure 1. Patients seen and treated at the Department's outpatient setting

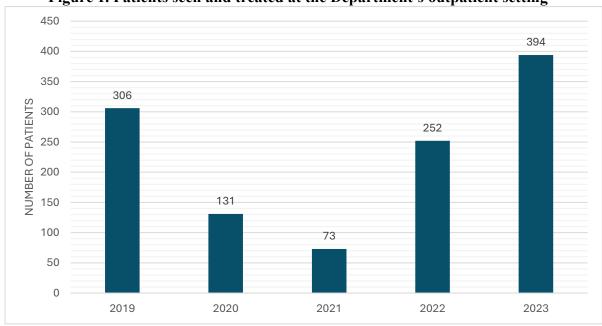


Figure 2. Dental and maxillofacial surgery cases treated under GA

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations

- 1. **Abdulaziz Bakathir.** "Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in Sickle Cell Anaemic patients". 7th Saudi Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery GCC Chapter Online Conference, 9th 12th December 2021.
- 2. **Abdulaziz Bakathir.** "Brown Tumours of the Facial Bones Omani experience from Sultan Qaboos University Hospital" 8th Saudi Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Conference. 6th 8th January 2023.

Poster Presentations

1. **Ali Al Mullahi.**" Retrospective analysis of postoperative morbidity and a repeat of dental treatment for medically compromised children under general anaesthesia" - 29th Congress of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry (IAPD). 14th – 17th June 2023, Maastricht, Netherlands.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

School-based dental health program

As part of our department's community initiatives, we have been conducting an annual school-based dental health program at Sarh Al Jamah School since 2021. This program, lasting one week each year, entails dental screening and oral health education for the students.



Dental care during pregnancy



The Dental and Maxillofacial Department, in collaboration with the Family Medicine and Felalth Department, started oral health screening and dental prevention clinics for pregnant wattending the ANC in 2021.		

Department of Human and Clinical Anatomy



Message from the Head of the Department

The main mission of the Department of Human and Clinical Anatomy is to equip medical, nursing and biomedical science students with a sound basic anatomical knowledge that enables them to understand the morphology and the structure-function relationship of the human body at the cellular, tissues, organ system and organismal levels. It also provides a higher level of clinical and applied anatomy in the hope that students will use it in their future career and promote safe medical practice.

To fulfil this aim, the department offers subject-based and integrated courses that cover gross anatomy, histology, embryology and neuroanatomy. This is complimented by clinically-oriented teaching modalities including surface and living anatomy, clinical skills and medical imaging. The department also encourages and promotes innovation in basic, clinical and educational anatomical research. We are also open to collaboration with researchers from within and outside SQU and Oman.

Department faculty and researchers are actively engaged in a wide range of research themes including fertility and stem cell research, cancer research, cardiovascular system research, radiological anatomy and medical and anatomical sciences education research. There are currently many undergoing research projects and grants under these themes, which resulted in a good number of publications and scholarly outputs.

Last but not least, the department with its available facilities continuously provides academic and technical expertise and logistic support to different departments and units at Sultan Qaboos University and other institutions in the country with regards to activities involving the use of cadaveric materials for educational and scientific purposes.



Dr. Halima Al-Balushi, Assistant Professor at the Department of Human and Clinical Anatomy received the best academic advisor award.

The Best Academic Advising Award is a prestigious recognition that honors exceptional advisors who have made a significant impact on the academic and personal development of students. This award celebrates advisors who go above and beyond their responsibilities, demonstrating a deep commitment to guiding and supporting students throughout their educational journey.

The Best Academic Advising Award celebrates advisors who foster a holistic approach to advising, recognizing that students' personal and emotional well-being greatly impacts their academic performance. These advisors provide a supportive and nurturing environment, offering guidance on personal development, mental health resources, and extracurricular opportunities that enhance students' overall college experience.



Dr. Srijit Das, Associate Professor at the Department of Human and Clinical Anatomy received a Fellowship from the Anatomical Society of India

The Anatomical Society of India has an academy, which honours its life members by awarding Fellowship of the Anatomical Society of India. A search committee of the Anatomical Society of India, consisting of seven members including the President, General Secretary and 5 senior anatomists one each from five regions in India decides on the nominations received every year. The Fellowship is known as "Fellow of Anatomical Society of India" and it is

abbreviated as F.A.S.I. All the fellows are eligible to mention this fellowship along with other qualifications, which they possess.



Dr. Adhari Al Zaabi, Assistant Professor at the Department of Human and Clinical Anatomy

"Women in AI" award,

Artificial intelligence show, 2023, Dubai, UAE

Received the following best presentation awards.

- Mapping the epidemiology of neoplastic and preneoplastic colorectal lesions: an initial step toward constructing a prevention strategy", National Oncology Center research meeting, Oman, 2023
- Development and evaluation of Artificial Intelligence-based micro-simulation predictive model for colorectal cancer: A step toward an evidence-based disease control policy", Royal Hospital annual research day, Oman, 2023
- Does climate change explain the rising incidence of early-onset colorectal cancer in GCC countries?" Oral presentation at Oman Sustainability conference, Muscat, Oman 2023





Best teacher Award

College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, 2023

Dr. Adhari's teaching philosophy centers on fostering active learning and engagement through Team-Based Learning (TBL) methodologies. I believe in empowering students to take ownership of their learning journey and encouraging self-learning and critical thinking. By integrating frequent online quizzes and competitions, I aim to create a dynamic learning environment that motivates students to actively participate, collaborate, and continuously challenge themselves to achieve their full potential.

Siyaj" is a multi-channel cancer awareness program

Dr. Adhari is heading a national cancer awareness program "Siyaj" which is a multi-channel cancer awareness program that was launched in 2019 by a team of medical doctors and medical students from the College of Medicine and Health Science at Sultan Qaboos University. The program aims to communicate scientific cancer-related evidence and knowledge with the public through their preferred channels and in a clear and simple Arabic language in order to increase public awareness about cancer and help to reduce the incidence of cancer that is associated with behavioral factors such as diet and lifestyle.

(@Siyaj CAP) in Instagram and X



Dr. Srinivasa Rao Sirasanagandla

Associate Professor at the Department of Human and Clinical Anatomy received the *Best Young Researcher Award* from the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, 2023

Dr Srinivasa Rao obtained a PhD degree from the prestigious Manipal University (India). Dr. Rao has made important contributions in the areas of clinical anatomy and morphology. His work has been

published in several peer-reviewed journals. He has co-authored over 80 Scopus-indexed publications. He has received international prizes for his presentations at scientific conferences. His current research niche areas include Gum Arabic against the Environmental pollutants associated with toxicity, clinical anatomy research in radiology, and autophagy.

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology



Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (OBGYN) is one of the major departments in the College of Medicine & Health Sciences (COM&HS) and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH) involved in teaching undergraduates, postgraduates and other allied professionals. It has been recognized as one of the centres of excellence in women's healthcare in Oman that produces trained leaders in women's health as an academic subspecialty, for community practice and research. The goal of the Department is to provide excellent women's healthcare via general and subspecialty clinics such as general obstetrics and gynecology clinics, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Uro-gynaecology, Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility, Minimally Invasive surgery. We value team work, intellectual curiosity, compassion and academic excellence.

Our mission is to provide a structured educational environment in which dedicated teaching is integrated with graduated clinical responsibilities that promote intellectual growth in patient management at bedside, operating room, delivery suite and outpatient care. Our undergraduate and postgraduate programs train students to provide comprehensive healthcare for women by applying an evidence-based approach to clinical management with a view to providing the best possible care for all of our patients and promoting research.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the College of Medicine and Health Sciences has its objectives aligned with the Sultan Qaboos University's strategic objectives and these include:

- Implement outcome-based curriculum for undergraduate teaching.
- Encourage research and innovation.
- Provide continuous professional development to all staff.
- Provide up to date subspecialty services.
- Collaborate with regional and international bodies for the advancement of research and clinical expertise.

Involvement in Fellowship and Training Programs:

- ➤ **Dr. Ahlam Al Hinai** re-joined after completing a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine from the University of Ottawa, Canada Jan/13/2022 Jan/13/2023.
- ➤ **Dr. Suhaila Al Wahaibi** re-joined after completing Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency from McGill University, Montreal, Canada July 2016-August 2021. and Fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery/ Urogynecology from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada Sept 2021-Aug 2023.
- ➤ **Dr. Fatma Al Wahaibi** re-joined after completing fellowship training in Gynecology Oncology in Belfast/UK 2021-2023

Staff Joined the Department in 2023

- 1. Dr. Abeer Hamood Al Hadhrami, Senior Specialist
- 2. Dr. Fatma Al Falahi, Specialist A
- 3. Dr. Manal Al Busaidi, Specialist A
- 4. Dr. Mehnaz Memon, Specialist
- 5. Dr. Naima Abdirahman Salad

New facilities established in the department

- ➤ Increasing use of Same Day Surgery via Day Care Unit for Minor OB&GYN Cases.
- ➤ Performing Multi-Channel Urodynamic Studies for cases of female urinary incontinence.

Rare interesting case in the OBYG department

A 40-year-old woman presented at 20 weeks with hypertension and headache. She also had low platelets and was diagnosed with HELLP syndrome and delivered. However postnatally she developed bilateral pulmonary hemorrhages and stroke and needed intensive unit care. She was diagnosed to have "catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome" CAPS which is a very rare disease with only a few reported. She needed ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) and survived all the complications.

The department is actively involved in the Involvement in OMSB activities.

Community Services:

- > Dr. Miriam Fenn conducted a PROMPT for doctors and Midwives on PPH in May 2023.
- ➤ The department organized the PROMPT workshop on 25th May 2023; Dr. Aafag Abdelaziz Elamin was the organizer and Dr. Rahma Al Haddabi was Supervisor.
- ➤ The department organized CTG Interpretation Courses on 25th October 2023, it was organized by Dr. Aafag Abdelaziz Elamin and Dr. Nihal Al Riyami was supervisor.
- ➤ Dr. Dina Al Balushi organized and presented an Ultrasound workshop for the department's staff on December 22nd December 2023.
- ➤ Dr. Nihal Al Riyami has been invited to join the 2023 ACGME Review Committee International Meeting which was held at ACGME Headquarters, Chicago Illinois USA on 12th & 13th July 2023.
- > Drs. Nihal Al Riyami & Tamima Al Dughaishi are the members of the working team to take care of women's health during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum.
- > Dr. Nihal Al Riyami was a chairperson of a team that developed an initial plan to establish a women and child health center.
- ➤ Dr. Lamya Al Kharusi was a Guest surveyor for the Internal Review of General Surgery training program on November 27, 2023.
- > Dr. Nihal Al Riyami participated in the Committees of the Medical Responsibility Authority in the State of Kuwait.
- ➤ Dr. Nihal Al-Riyami and Dr. Tamima Al-Ghaishi are members of the working group for updating the guidelines for care of women's health, pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period.
- ➤ Dr. Nihal Al-Riyami is a member of a working group to prepare a performance measurement model for members of the medical staff at the university hospital and faculty members at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Collaboration with MOH

- ➤ Dr. Nihal Al Riyami is a member of the Scientific Council of Obstetrics & Gynecology.
- ➤ Dr. Nihal Al-Riyami to a membership in a working group to prepare a long-term performance measurement model for holders of medical and paramedical positions and faculty members at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.
- Nominate Dr. Tamima Al Dughaishi to be a member of the team describing the initiatives and the executive plan for the development workshop in human resources for health.
- ➤ Dr. Maryam Al Shukri Contributed to international collaborative group work on Iron Deficiency Anemia and uterine disorders: Impact on surgical management Riyadh KSA May 15-16/2023 to produce guidelines. Presented on IDA: The hematological differential diagnosis. The guidelines are a work in progress.

The department has actively contributed to research and scholarly activities resulting in numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals and active participation in national and international conferences.

Workshops

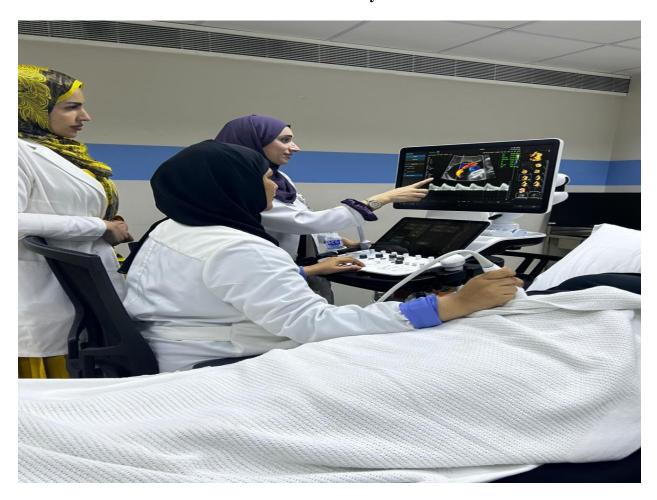
Perineal repair workshop for OMSB residents, jointly mentored by SQUH and Royal Hospital staff.



The Prompt workshop has been conducted on maternal postpartum hemorrhage, May 2023.

An ultrasound workshop on transvaginal ultrasound on simulators has been conducted. (Moderated by Dr. Dina Al-Balushi)

The simulator is a state-of-the-art machine, mimicking a live setup and training them on visualization of the uterus and adnexa was done very well.



Faculty Achievements

Dr. Vaidyanathan Gowri, Associate professor has been appointed as the associate editor of BMJ case reports since 1st June 2023. BMJ case reports is a Scopus and Web of Science-indexed journal publishing about 2500 case reports per year.

Department of Ophthalmology



Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Ophthalmology at the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital and College of Medicine and Health Sciences has solidified its position as a premier ophthalmic tertiary care center in Oman, excelling in medical education, sub-specialized ophthalmology care, clinical research, and community service. Equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic tools, the department offers a wide range of sub-specialty ophthalmology services, including cataract, cornea & refractive, external diseases, uveitis, orbits & oculoplastic, medical & surgical retina, neuro ophthalmology pediatric ophthalmology, glaucoma, ocular strabismus, genetics, visual electrophysiology, low vision and contact lens.

In addition, the department plays a pivotal role in shaping the ophthalmologists of tomorrow through its involvement in residency training program under the umbrella of OMSB. As the cornerstone of ophthalmic education, the department offers comprehensive training encompassing medical knowledge, surgical skills, and patient care. Under the guidance of experienced faculty members, residents receive hands-on exposure to a wide array of ophthalmic subspecialties.

Moreover, the Department fosters a culture of research and innovation, encouraging faculty and residents to engage in scholarly activities, publish papers, and present at conferences. This not only advances the field but also equips the faculty and residents with critical thinking skills and a scientific mindset essential for lifelong learning and professional growth.

Ophthalmology department achievements

The department has set a benchmark in government healthcare by pioneering the introduction of advanced partial thickness corneal transplant techniques such as Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty and Endothelial Keratoplasty in Oman.

In a landmark achievement in 2023, the department skillfully extended these cutting-edge surgeries to treat pediatric cases, notably performing a successful Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK) on a young boy afflicted with a congenital corneal endothelial disorder. This procedure, which targets and replaces only the compromised corneal endothelial cells, resulted in a dramatic improvement in the clarity of the cornea.

The striking before-and-after images of a child with congenital Hereditary Endothelial Dystrophy (CHED) underscore the department's dedication to pushing the boundaries of medical innovation, significantly enhancing the quality of life for its patients.







The establishment of an Orthoptic Clinic addressed the growing demand for specialized care in ocular motility conditions, enhancing access to treatment and adherence to international guidelines.



Efforts to improve workflow and efficiency in the outpatient department led to reduced wait times through the implementation of strategies to minimize unnecessary testing, ensuring a smoother patient experience despite space constraints.

Community service initiatives, such as the World Sight Day 2023 event, underscored the department's dedication to raising awareness about vision impairment and promoting eye health in the local community. Through collaborations with organizations like the Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB), the department was able to reach a broader audience and provide essential vision screenings and education. The event was held at Al Uraimi Bouvard Mall where dedicated ophthalmology residents, optometrists, and trained volunteers provided thorough vision tests and screenings to community members of all ages.



Furthermore, the department's commitment to research and scholarly activities resulted in numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals and active participation in national and international conferences, contributing to the advancement of ophthalmic knowledge and practice.



Overall, the Department of Ophthalmology at the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital and College of Medicine and Health Sciences continues to demonstrate excellence in patient care, education, research, and community engagement, solidifying its reputation as a leader in ophthalmic healthcare in Oman.

Department of Surgery



Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Surgery has been established since 1986. It has grown steadily over the years to become a very distinguished center in the country. Total number of staff is 81, 71 of them are doctors, 7 are technicians and three administrators.

Our mission is to provide excellent clinical care for our patients, as well as providing high level of education to our medical students and trainees.

Our department has always been in the lead in the research field, as we continue to take the role.

Currently, we have specialized teams in Trauma Surgery, Hepatobiliary, Bariatric Surgery, Upper and Lower Gastrointestinal surgery. Recently, we established an Acute Care Surgery to provide unique service for acute surgical conditions.

We also have vascular surgery and orthopedic surgery including Oncology Spine surgery, Plastic Surgery and Neurosurgery, Pediatric Surgery, ENT, Cardiothoracic, and Urology.

We will continue embracing the advanced technology in the field of surgery in order to provide the best quality of care to our patients as well as quality research and education for medical students and trainees.

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION	POSITION
Dr. Adil A. Rahman Mohamed Al-Zadjali	Senior Consultant / HOD
Dr. Yahya Nasser Rashid Al Badaai	Senior Consultant & Assistant HoD
Ms. Maria Teresa Ablen	Medical Coordinator
Ms. Luluwa Said Al-Farsi	Coordination & Follow-Up & Archive Specialist (C)
Ms. Thuraya Abdullah Al-Harrasi	Medical Coordinator

ALL DEPARTMENT STAFF

CNI	ID	NAME	Docition
SN 1	I.D. 5176	Dr. Mohamed Aish Sultan Al Hashmi	Position Consultant (Endocrine)
2	14102	Dr. Babar Rehmani	Consultant
3	13492	Dr. Zuhail Bin Nazar	Specialist B
4	3555	Dr. Adil A. Rahman Mohamed Al-Zadjali	Senior Consultant / HOD
5	14109	Dr. Amit Majahan	Consultant
6	9024	Dr. Shahzad Younas	Senior Specialist
7	11508	Dr. Nawaf Al-Muqaimi	SHO
8	4460	Dr. Hani Ahmed Abdul Rahman Al Qadhi	Senior Consultant
9	10669	Dr. Sadiq Al-Khabori	Specialist
10	8073	Dr. SureshKannan Kanniwadi Subramanian	Senior Specialist
11	11503	Dr. Ruqaiya Al-Shehhi	Specialist
12	10529	Dr. Humaid Al Adawi	Consultant
13	11271	Dr. Safiya Al Masrouri	Assistant Professor
14	9943	Dr. Abdullah Sultan Ahmed Al-Jabri	SHO
15	13565	Dr. Shahid Iqbal	Senior Specialist
16	3868	Dr. Khalifa Nasser Salim Al Wahaibi	Senior Consultant
17	12988	Dr. Edwin Stephen	Senior Consultant
18	10474	Dr. Ibrahim Abdelhady	Specialist
19	6105	Dr. Adil Hashim Al Kindi	Senior Consultant
20	4124	Dr. Hilal Al Sabti	Senior Consultant
21	9272	Dr. Tarek Alameddine	Senior Consultant
22	8230 8457	Dr. Mohammed Ismail Al Yamani Dr. Hamood Naser H. Al-Kindi	Consultant Consultant
23	8457		
	8505	Dr. Mohd Salman Siddiqi Dr. Mirdavron M. Mukaddirov	Senior Specialist
25			Senior Specialist
26	12956	Dr. Abdelmagid Mohamed Salem	Senior Specialist
27	13384	Dr. Essam El Khedr Abbas Khalil	Senior Specialist
28	12958	Dr. Islam Al Shalaby	Senior Medical Officer
29	13015	Dr. Mohammed Shenawy Hammam	Senior Medical Officer
31	13118	Dr. Ibrahim Diaa Esmat Abdelkader	Senior Medical Officer
32	14653	Dr. Hassanein Ali Hussein Algrab	Senior Medical Officer
33	8193	Mr.Balan Baskaran	Perfusionist
34	8252	Ms. Zainab Zayid Al Hashmi	Perfusionist
35	10319	B. Ashraf	Perfusionist
36	8796	Mr. Majid Al Hinai	Perfusionist
37	13372	Mohammed Almasroori	Perfusionist
38	5984	Dr. Yahya Nasser Rashid Al Badaai	Senior Consultant & Assistant HoD
39	3358	Prof. Rashid Khalfan Salim Al Abri	Senior Consultant / Professor
40	13702	Dr. Mohammed Badreldine	Senior Consultant
41	13002	Dr. Mohammed Khalfan Said Al Washahi	Consultant
42	13853	Dr. Khalid Al Zaabi	Senior Specialist
43	9437	Dr. Laila Al-Masaoudi	Registrar
44	15212	Dr. Nasser Al Tamami	Joined 01/01/2024
45	13006	Dr. Bassin Thomas John	Specialist

46	9199	Dr. Rajeev Kariyattil	Senior Consultant
47	14799	Dr. Bijesh Ravindran Nair	Consultant
48	9244	Dr. Venkatesh Govindaraju	Senior Specialist
49	11263	Dr. Mahesh Pillai	Senior Specialist
50	9293	Dr. Koshy Kottorazhikam Kochumen	Specialist
51	7875	Dr. Mohd Nasser Al Mutani	Senior Consultant
52	8455	Dr. Ayman Salim Al Amri	Senior Consultant
53	9440	Dr. Wafaa Abdulaqader Al Baluki	Consultant
54	10528	Dr. Humaid Al Farai	Acting Consultant
55	14315	Dr. Mohammed Fawzy Mohammed	Senior Specialist
56	10085	Dr. Rahil Muzaffar	Senior Specialist
57	8821	Dr. Ahmed Yaseen Mohammed Al-Hadeethi	Senior Specialist
58	14275	Dr. Mazin Usama Khalil Ibrahim	Medical Officer
59	8842	Saif Mohammed Al-Kharusi	Plastic Testing Technician
60	8844	Badar Ali Al Mazidi	Assistant Technician
61	4053	Dr. Zainab Nasser Mohamed Al Balushi	Senior Consultant
62	13281	Dr. Dhruva Nath Ghosh	Consultant
63	10671	Dr. Alghalya Al Maawali	Assistant Professor
64	9945	Dr. Yousuf Salim Nasser Al-Shaqsi	Specialist
65	8049	Dr. Sareyah Mouaffak Al Sibai	Specialist
66	12536	Dr. Farman Ali Laghari	Specialist -A
67	13466	Dr. Bashar Ahmad Abdelkarim Dawud	Specialist -A
68	7548	Dr. Ghalib Amur Rashid Al Badaai	Senior Consultant
69	3554	Dr. Mohammed Salim Ahmed Al Marhoon	Senior Consultant
70	4105	Dr. Josephkunju Mathew	Senior Consultant
71	12436	Dr. Khurram Siddiqui	Senior Consultant
72	14082	Dr. Syed Muhammad Shahid Aquil	Consultant
73	14952	Dr. Noor Nabi Junejo	Senior Specialist
74	14512	Dr. Santosh Narayana	Senior Specialist
75	14586	Dr. Mohamed Sdky Alsaraf	Senior Specialist
76	8060	Dr. Najib Ahmed Ali Abu Draz	Specialist
77	13965	Dr. Sanmukh Das Bragia	Specialist

Teaching Programs

The Department of Surgery is actively involved in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate.

• Pre-clerkship

The Pre-clerkship is constructed to teach students the basic skills in history taking, communication skills, and physical examinations.

The main objective of this rotation is to prepare medical students to start their clinical rotations for 10 weeks in different clinical components. The students will be rotating in Surgery block that

comprises ENT, Musculo-Skeletal System, and Gastrointestinal & Genitourinary System. Total number of students =106

• Junior clerkship

The main purpose of the course is to train the student to analyses and examine the patients presenting with common surgical problems predominately benign conditions with few common malignant conditions. Additionally, students will gain knowledge by participating in scholarly activities like tutorials and lectures. Total number of students =119

Senior clerkship

The main objectives of this curriculum are to re-enforce what was learned in junior clerkship regarding obtaining a relevant history of patients presenting with common surgical symptoms. There will be a progression of learning of various surgical disorders predominately malignant conditions and other important allied branches including Pediatric surgery. Total number of students = 128

• Pre-internship

The main purpose of the course is to prepare the students to be future interns. At present, they are learning to be good interns, after starting internships and doing so at variable speed. However, a well-prepared intern is more likely to function effectively, if he has already been prepared to do so. The student would be shadowing the intern. Hence, the major emphasis in this rotation will be to impart to them basic surgical skills, participate in the management of patients, and hence prepare them to be better interns. Total number of students = 95

Postgraduate Programmes

INTERNSHIP

The total number of interns who undertook their surgical rotations in the department in the year 2023

December 2022- March 2023 = 34 April 2023 - July 2023 = 31 August 2023 - November 2023 = 39 December 2023 - March 2024 = 41

Oman Medical Speciality Board Residents

*For the OMSB General Surgery Residency Program,

From 1 January 2023 to 31 August 2023, there were 34 general surgery residents. From 1 September 2023 up to 31 December 2023, there were 41 general surgery residents.

*There is involvement of Surgery Department staff in OMSB activities.

These activities are listed below:

- 1. Academic Half-day teaching of residents conducted every Monday of the week from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.
- 2. The Education Committee meets every two months members from the General Surgery Education Committee: Dr. Adil Al Zadjali, Dr. Humaid Al Adawi, and Dr. Safiya Al Masrouri.
- 3. OMSB Faculty Development Workshops SQUH surgery department members are being invited to attend development workshops being conducted in OMSB.

* For the OMSB Orthopedics Residency Programme

1. Total number of Orthopedics residents in 2023 - 30

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND COURSES:

• PEDIATRIC SURGERY

- 1. 16th meeting of the Arab Association of Pediatric Surgeons, 23rd meeting of the Tunisian Pediatric Surgery Association, January 2023.
- 2. 38th EPSA International Congress 2023 and 17th Congress of the Arab Association of Pediatric Surgery, Egypt, November 2023.
- 3. The 9th Surgical Update and the 2nd Oman Trauma Conference, November 2023.

• ENT

IFOS 2023 Dubai - ENT World Congress



- 1. The ENT unit organized the otorhinolaryngology dissection courses. The event was held on 04 11 December 2023 at the College of Nursing, SQU. In this event following dissection courses were offered.
 - i. FESS & Skull Base
 - ii. Endoscopic & Microscopic Temporal Bone Dissection
 - iii. Rhinoplasty Dissection



1. SQU ENT Update on December 7-8, 2023, at the Sheraton Hotel Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

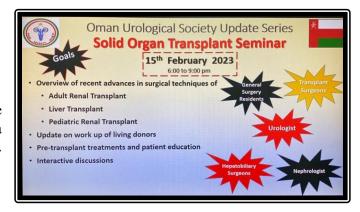


• **Urology**

- 1. The 4th Oman Urological Society Conference in Salalah, Oman in September 2023.
 - Presentation: e.g
 - a. Primary RPNLD (Khurram Siddiqui)
 - b. Azoospermia and varicocelectomy (Mohamed S Al-Marhoon)
 - Poster Presentation: e.g
 - O Primary Squamous Cell Carcinoma of Kidney: Case Series of a Rare Renal Pathology (Noor Nabi Junejo)

2. Solid Organ Transplant in Oman on February 15, 2023.

An international seminar organized by the Urology Division in collaboration with Shifa Hospital Pakistan and Oman Urology Society.



3. European Association of Urology Annual Congress (EAU) 2023, Milan, Italy; March 2023

Dr. Ghalib Al Badaai did hands-on courses for transurethral treatment – HOLEP and in sacral neuromodulation procedure standardization.

4. Genitourinary Malignancies meeting. Muscat, Oman; May 02, 2023

Attended by Dr. Ghalib Al Badaai, Dr. Mohamed Al Marhoon, Dr. Khurram Siddique, Dr. Joseph Matheu and Dr. Shahid Aquill as moderators/presenters and organized by Oman Urology Society.

5. Other conferences invited lectures.

- The 20th Arab Association of urology Congress & the 16th Kuwait Urology Association Annual Conference, Kuwait; November 23-25, 2023
 - Primary Retroperitoneal LN Dissection: is Indication Vanishing (Khurram Siddiqui)
- Emirates Oncology Conference 2023, Abu Dhabi, UAE, November 17-19, 2023
 - Expert Panelist: Prostate cancer (Khurram Siddiqui)
- Pakistan Association of Urological Surgeons (PAUS) 23rd Annual Conference of PAUS, Karachi, Pakistan, October 27-29, 2023
 - Semi-live surgery, Post Chemotherapy bilateral RPNLD (Khurram Siddiqui)
 - Pre-biopsy imaging for prostate cancer (Khurram Siddiqui)
 - Transplantation of very small pediatric en-bloc renal allografts from donors less than 8 months of age has similar outcomes to donors 8 months. (Shahid Aquil).
- The 2nd international meeting on frankincense and medicinal plants- IMFM (3-4 September 2023, Salalah, Oman)
 - Effects of Frankincense (Luban) on Experimentally Induced Renal Stones in Rats
 (Mohamed S Al-Marhoon)

- The 12th Iraqi Urological Association IUA Conference (8-9 November 2023, Erbil, Iraq)
 - Male Urethral Stricture Disease (Mohamed S Al-Marhoon)

VASCULAR SURGERY

- 1. EPCON, AHMEDABAD; February 2023; Dr. Edwin Stephen
- 2. WOES, Presenter; Sri Lanka Society of Vascular Surgery, Colombo; May 2023 Dr. Edwin Stephen (presenter).
- 3. Vascular Society of India 30th International meeting, Mumbai; October 2023 Contrast-induced nephropathy should surgeons be scared!?

Bypass is still a big deal for distal revascularization.

4. Exposure of aorta, branches, and IVC- for Vascular Surgeons, National University, Singapore and Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore, India – Dr. Edwin Stephen, Course Instructor.

• **GENERAL SURGERY**

- 1. 7th Gulf Obesity Surgery Society International Conference, on December 15th-16th, 2023.
- 2. Basic Surgical Skills.

ORTHOPEDICS

- 1. Oct. 2023, MSTS Poster Presentation: Risk of neurological deterioration while patients on neoadjuvant denosumab for spine Spine Giant Cell Tumor.
- 2. Oct. 2023, MSTS Poster Presentation: Device-related clinical outcomes of the Photodynamic Bone Stabilization System in the treatment of pathologic humerus fractures
- 3. August 2023. Westrent Orthopedics Association Presentation. Risk of neurological deterioration while patients on neoadjuvant denosumab for Spine Giant Cell Tumor.



- 4. August 2023. Westrent Orthopedics Association Poster. Device-related clinical outcomes of the Photodynamic Bone Stabilization System in the treatment of pathologic humerus fractures.
- 5. June 2023. Global Spine Congress Presentation. Risk of neurological deterioration while patients on neoadjuvant denosumab for spine Spine Giant Cell Tumor.
- 6. April 2023: Clinical Quality Improvement 2. Feb. 2023: MD Anderson Leadership course

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Honorary Professorship - Dr. Khurram Siddiqui

Awarded by the Department of Surgery, Al Shifa Hospital, Tameer e Milat University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Urology clinical achievements:

1. Progress of renal transplant program:

- a) 9 cases of Living donor kidney transplants were performed in 2023.
- b) A twice-monthly schedule was made in the 2nd half of the year aiming to increase the number of cases done at SQUH.
- c) All the donor nephrectomies were successfully done by laparoscopic approach.



2. Launching thulium laser (THULIO) service in urology:

- a. It is a great achievement to have such essential technology. A number of patients benefited from this effective way of endoscopic stone fragmentation instead of sending them for treatment in other hospitals.
- b. THLIO laser is considered one of the best lasers in stone fragmentation and can also be used for prostate enucleation, treatment of strictures, and treatment of upper urinary tract malignancies,

3. Minimally invasive, uro-oncology, and complex surgeries:

a. The unit continues to do these surgeries and the unit is considered as reference for many of these cases.

4. A restart of urodynamic service in urology:

a. After years of unavailability, this essential service is back in urology at SQUH, which has served and will serve in the management of many patients seen in urology.

New Faculty 2023

NOW I doubty 2020								
Dr. Abdullah Al-Jabri	Dr. Santhosh Narayana	Dr. Bijesh Ravindran Nair						
Acting Consultant	Senior Specialist Urology	Consultant						
General Surgery	Division	Neurosurgery						
Mobile # 99886380	Mobile # 96264705	Mobile # 79325451						
Previous Institution: Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Department of Surgery /Oman (Specialist – General Surgery) - 06/2013- 08/2016 Recent Research: Adverse Cardiovascular Outcomes in Patients with Moderate to Severe Obstructive Sleep Apnea (2023) Rejoined	Previous Institution: Specialist in Urology at Royal Hospital, Muscat, Oman (29/03/2008 to 24/3/2023) Recent Publication: Comparison of cytoreductive partial versus radical nephrectomy in metastatic renal cell carcinoma: To be on the horns of a dilemma. Meta- analysis	Recent Research: Risk Factors for Postoperative Brain Contusion and Early Outcomes in Patients with Anterior Skull Base Meningiomas Undergoing Unifrontal Surgery: Single Center Experience with 110 Patients (2022).						
Dr. Ghusn Al Sideiri	Dr. Nawaf Al-Muqaimi	Dr. Yousuf Al Shaqsi						
Consultant Neurosurgery	Senior House Officer – Acting	Specialist- Acting Consultant						
Mobile # 99298898	Consultant Hepatobiliary &	Pediatric Surgery						
	Liver Surgery	Mobile # 97389000						
	Mobile # 97389000							
Rejoined	Rejoined							
Ms. Thuraiya Al-Harrasi	Dr. Mohamed Sdqy Alsaraf	Dr. Sadiq Al Khaboori						
Department Coordinator	Senior Specialist	Senior House Officer – Acting						
Mobile # +96893688242	Urology	Consultant						
	Mobile # 95590189	Thoracic Surgery						
		Mobile # 95053824						
		Recent Research:						
		Thoracoscopic right middle						
		lobectomy-small but tricky.						
		Rejoined						
Ms. Thuraiya Al-Harrasi	Dr. Mohamed Sdqy Alsaraf	Dr. Sadiq Al Khaboori						
Department Coordinator	Senior Specialist	Senior House Officer – Acting						
Mobile # +96893688242	Urology	Consultant						
1,100110 11 1,000,00002 12	Mobile # 95590189	Thoracic Surgery						

Recent Research: Thoracoscopic right middle lobectomy-small but tricky.
Rejoined

List of OutPatient And InPatient From 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023

	InPatient	OutPatient	Total
Surgery 1	185	808	993
Surgery 2	396	1,052	1,448
Surgery 3	541	848	1,389
Surgery 4	632	1,962	2,594
Surgery 5	527	806	1,333

Operation Details

From Date 1/1/2013 To 31/12/2023

	Total
Total	2,082
Surgery 1	185
Surgery 2	401
Surgery 3	539
Surgery 4	668
Surgery 5	289

SURGEONS IN MEDIA



The Pediatric Division has successfully Performed a complex operation to extract a chest wall tumor for a seven-day-old child.



بدء أعمال المؤتمر الدولي الرابع للجمعية العُمانية لجراحة المسالك البولية والتناسلية بصلالة

The 4th Oman Urological Society Conference in Salalah from 7th to 9th September was organized and attended by the members of the Urology Division.



Liked by iman_alhatmi and 2,534 others

dr.humaidalshamsi عبراحة ويراحيد الفريع استشاري جراحة المحكونة والدي تقديم الدي يقدمه الكبير الذي يقدمه سرطان العظام في الحصيص جراحة سرطانات العظام والدي يعتبر احد الدر الدرضانا في الخصيص جراحة سرطانات العظام والدي يعتبر احد الدر المحكونة المحكونة المحكونة المحكونة المحكونة ويقوم بتقييم الحالات بحرفية كبيرة, فحصص يستقيل مرضانا بكل حفاوة ويقوم بتقييم الحالات بحرفية كبيرة, فحصص المحالات بحرفية كبيرة, فحصص التادريب الحالات العظام من التخصصات النادرة وتطلب سنوات طويلة من التحصول على أقصل تباتج للشفاء بإذن الله. الدكتور

Dr. Humaid Al Farai received an appreciation from Dr. Humaid Al Hashmi for his great support in accepting patients from UAE with rare orthopedic cases.



نجح فريقٌ طبييٌّ من مستشفى جامعة السلطان قابوس في إجراء عمليات إصلاح ارتجاع الصمام المايترالي الحادَّ باستخدام تقنية حديثة وهي استخدام نظام(Mitralclip دون الحاجة لعملية فتح القلب للمرضعي ذوي

قاد العمليات فريقٌ طبيعٌ مؤهلٌ يتكّون من الدكتور فهد الكندي، استشاري أول بقسم قسطرة القلب، والدكتور عادل الكندي، استشاري أول في قسم جراحة القلب بمستشفى جامعة السلطان قابوس.

تُجرى العملية بوضع نظام MitraClip على الصمامات المتأثرة بالمنظار، ويتم التحكم في القسطرة عبر الأوعية الدموية لوضع النظام على شرف الصمام التاجي، وتُدخل القسطرة التوجيهية مع جهاز MitraClip في نهايتها من خلال شق صغير في الوريد الفخذي للمريض، وتتحرك على طول الأوعية الدموية تحت سيطرة الموجات فوق الصوتية(echo) ، ويتم عملية الربط بشرف الصمام التاجي بشكل طفيف التوغل.

هذه التقنية الحديثة تُستخدم لعلاج ارتجاع الصمام المايترالي الحادّ، وتعدّ بديلا آمنا وفعالا لعملية فتح القلب التقليدية، وتساعد في تحسين جودة حياة المضم، بشكل كبدر

ومن مميزات هذا الإجراء أنه يمكن للمريض العودة إلى المنزل في غضون (1-3)أيام بعد العملية، وتشمل التوصيات الأخرى المراقبة في العيادات الخارجية من قبل طبيب القلب.

The Cardiothoracic Division succeeded in Performing the Mitral Valve Repair Using Advanced Technology. The operation deals with the use of a mitral valve clip for a patient at a high risk of open-heart surgery.



The ENT Division has successfully implanted a 14-year-old patient to restore aural abilities.

RESEARCH DAY AND SURGICAL GRAND ROUNDS







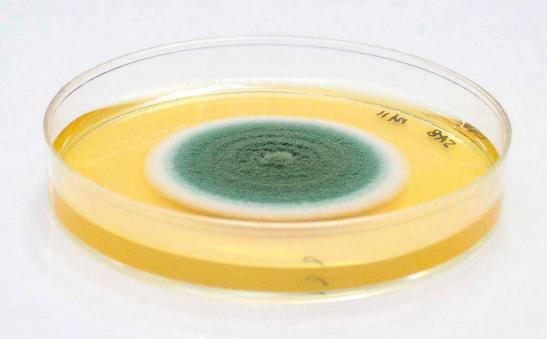








Diagnostic Departments



Department of Biochemistry



Message from the Head of the Department

It is with great honor and pride that on behalf of the department of Biochemistry and its collective dedicated staff, we present this rich and impressive report. We have collectively strived to align the departmental goals and achievements with the strategic goals of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Sultan Qaboos University. The report includes the collective efforts and achievements of both the hospital and college staff.

We will strive to maintain this high standard and dedicate our collective efforts towards even more productivity, initiatives, achievements and innovations. We are collectively committed towards achieving the strategic goals of both the college and the university. We thank you for your continued support, cooperation and dedication.

Educational highlights

- 1. Certificate for Participation in Student assessment workshop 15-17th October (Prof. Jumana Saleh)
- 2. The group-based undergraduate research module consists of 3 courses (research Methodology MEDI4202 (3 credit hrs) Student project I MEDI4511 (2 credit hrs), and Student Project II MEDI4521 (3 credit hrs). This module replaces an existing module based on a single student research project. (Prof. Hamza Babiker)
- 3. Accreditation achievement:

Prof. Jumana Saleh:

Member of the research-teaching nexus committee. Contributed to the development of the research-teaching nexus proposal (both Arabic and English versions) which

was approved by the university. Submitted to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

- > Team deputy leader for OAAAQA ISAA for the Criterion Research and innovation
- Nominated as a team member for writing the Accreditation Application for the Institutional Standards Assessment (ISA).
- ➤ Invited as a quality assurance team member from SQU at the Fifth Regional Conference of ANQAHE, 5 to 7 December 2023 in Muscat for quality assurance

Clinical Activity

- 1. Regular Judge for the Family Medicine Residency Program PGY2 research day (Prof. Jumana Saleh)
- 2. Associate Program Director, Clinical Chemistry Training Program (Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami)
- 3. Item Development team (OMSB- Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami)
- 4. Interview Panel team (OMSB Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami)
- 5. Clinical Competency Committee Chair OMSB (Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami)
- 6. Participation in Ophthalmology Basic Science Course OMSB- (Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami)
- 7. Participation in Hematology Training Program OMSB- (Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami.)
- 8. Review and Verification of hospital Wide POCT -SOP (Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami)
- 9. Training of Biomedical scientists from within and outside SQUH (a total of 60 biomedical scientists trained in 2023)
- 10. Training of Biochemical genetics fellows (3 fellows in 2023)

Research highlights

- 1. New lab facility: A grant of 11 861. OR (Omani Riyal) has been secured form the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to establish a High-Performance Computing (HPC) for whole genome sequence analysis resources within the COMHS. (Prof. Hamza Babiker)
- 2. Ongoing clinical trials: Participation in the arrow head Pharmaceuticals INC. AROAPOC3-3001 Clinical trial (Aphase 3 Study to evaluate efficiency and Safety of ARO_APOC3 in Adults with Familial Chylomicronemia Syndrome (Prof Khalid Al-Rassadi, Dr. Khalid Al-Waili, Dr. Kawkab Al-Farsi, Dr. Sulaiman Al-Riyami).

3. Grants:

No.	Grant Title	Amount	Internal or external	Investigators	Project Code
1	Gut microbiota profiling in healthy individuals and in patients with premature coronary artery disease.	8,000 OMR	Internal	Amani Al- Khaifi (PI), Dr. Zaeema Al-Jabri (Co-PI), Sana Hasar (Co- Investigator)	IG/MED/BIOC/24/01
2	MalforminA1 induces cytotoxicity by targeting Cytoskeleton- related genes in ovarian cancer (OC) cell lines.	8,000 OMR	Internal	Yahya Tamimi (PI), Mohammed Al- Tobi (Co-PI), Ikram Burney (Co-Investigator)	IG/MED/BIOC/24/03
3	An objective assessment and modeling of government policy intervention to control obesity and its impact on healthcare expenditure in Oman.	40.000 OMR	external	Prof. Jumana (Co-PI)	RC/SR- DVC/HURC/22/02.
4	Pilot study: Relative Telomere Length in Type 1 diabetes patients	3000 OMR	Internal	Dr. Maha Al Riyami (PI)	RF/MED/BIOC/23/03
5	Validation of cardiac troponin testing for patients presenting with acute coronary syndrome at emergency care	15,000 OMR	External MoHERI strategic Grant Program (2023)	Dr. Nafila Al Riyami	
6	Predictive Value of sFlt-1/PIGF Ratio in Fetal Growth Restriction, a case- control prospective study	8,000 OMR	Internal		

Community initiative

- 1. Mentorship program initiative proposal submitted to the College of Medicine Deanship. Reviewed by the executive committee. (**Prof. Jumana Saleh**)
- 2. A personal initiative: Planning and organizing the 3rd edition of the "Study Smartly" event: This is a personal initiative that I planned and organized for the third time, the "Study Smartly" event, with the aim of introducing medical students to effective study and time management skills. (Dr. Maha Al Riyami)

* Activities published in media

- 1. Tawasul journal article: دور الرياضة في تعزيز التوازن الهرموني عند النساء لصحة أفضل (Prof. Jumana Saleh)
- 2. Translations and proofreading for Tawasul journal Issues FEBRUARY and MAY, 2023 (Prof. Jumana Saleh)

Conducting/organizing conferences/ workshops

- 1. Certificate in Health Professions Education: 11-17 October 2023 (Dr. Nadia Al Wardy)
- 2. Workplace-based assessment workshop: 9/5/2023 (Dr. Nadia Al Wardy)
- 3. Point of Care best practices work shop (organized with Ministry of Health Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami)
- **4.** Saudi Society Clinical Chemistry annual meeting 2023 (Part of the scientific committee and Abstract Review Committee-**Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami**)

Key note/Guest speaker/Invited talks

- 1. Item analysis workshop: 30/4/2023 (Dr. Nadia Al Wardy)
- 2. New faculty programme: CETL 14/09/2023 (Dr. Nadia Al Wardy)
- **3.** Magnesium: The Healing Gemstone of the Omani Coast, Global Forum report of the Water for Humanity Conference in Muscat. Food and Energy **Nexus (Prof. Jumana Saleh)**
- 4. Talk at the opening ceremony of "The ninth Arab forum for scientific research and sustainable development" -Oman, 30-31 January, 2023. (Dr. Maha Al Riyami)
- 5. Panel discussion for Harvard Business School-Club of the GCC: "Artificial intelligence in Healthcare, National talent, Sustainability, and food security, 3rd June 2023, Oman. (Dr. Maha Al Riyami)
- **6.** Guest Speaker at the "Inspirational Women of Oman" Event by the Oman France Association-Oman, 11.10.2023, Oman. (**Dr. Maha Al Riyami**)

- 7. Talk "A research project success story" at the opening ceremony of "The tenth National Research forum", By Ministry of Higher education, -Oman, 4th-December, 2023. (Dr. Maha Al Riyami)
- 8. Guest speaker at (the Gulf Association of Diabetes and Endocrinology conference, October 2023, Muscat, Oman. (Dr. Khalid Al Waili)
- 9. Invited Speaker, MEDLAB event Middle East- Dubai Clinical Chemistry Track Interferences in laboratory tests: An old and recurring problem (**Dr Nafila Bazdawi Al-Riyami**) (Feb 2023)
- 10. Invited Speaker in the symposium "Best Practices for POCT Implementation and Management" December 21st, 2023 (Dr. Nafila Al Riyami)
- 11. Invited Speaker in "2nd Al Masarrah Laboratory Conference" June 1st, 2023 (Dr. Nafila Al Riyami)
- 12. Invited Speaker in the "9th Annual Conference of SSCC and 5th International Meeting on Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine" 5-7 December 2023 Jeddah Saudi Arabia (Dr. Nafila Al Riyami)
- 13. Invited Speaker in the "2nd Low Carb Society seminar "Jedda Saudi Arabia 4th December 2023 (Dr. Nafila Al Riyami)

Offering services outside the University

- 1. December 7, 2023, External examiner during the Research Day in the National Genetics Centre (Dr. Yahya Tamimi)
- 2. External Referee at NIZWA University for promotion documents (**Prof. Jumana Saleh**)
- 3. **Prof. Hamza Babiker** is currently involved in collaborative research with the Staff of the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) Ministry of Health, Oman, to establish rapid molecular assays for the diagnosis of drug-resistant Tuberculosis (TB) and identification of the chain of transmission of TB.
- 4. 1. Editorial board member at Oman Medical Journal. (Dr. Maha Al Riyami)
- 5. Participation as a member in the Development of a National Laboratory Policy for Oman (**Dr. Sulaiman AL-Riyami**) Which was organized by the Ministry of Health with the support and coordination of the WHO.
- 6. Participation as a mentor in the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP) in Oman (**Dr. Sulaiman AL-Riyami**)
- 7. Assessor and External referee for overseas institutions: (Prof. Jumana Saleh)
- o King Abdul Aziz University, Saudi Arabia
- o Sattam bib AbdulAziz University, Saudi Arabia
- o Um Al Qura University, Saudi Arabia
- o Al Majmaah University, Saudi Arabia

* Member of clinical service committees

- 1. Arab Board Exam Committee: September 2023 (Dr. Nadia Al Wardy)
- 2. Point of Care testing Committee (Chair-person Dr. Nafila Al-Riyami)
- 3. State of the Art Laboratory Task Force for the creation of a new "state of the art laboratory within SQUH" (Leader since Jan 2023- Dr. Nafila Al-Riyami)
- **4.** Oman Medical Specialty Board, Clinical Biochemistry Program, Associate program Director (**Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami**)
- 5. Total Parenteral Nutrition Task Force (Chairperson Dr. Nafila AL-Riyami)
- 6. Strategic planning team (Dr. Suleiman Al-Riyami)
- 7. National Laboratory quality Assurance Committee (Miss. Huda Al-Saadi)
- 8. SQUH Strategic Planning team (Dr. Suleiman AL-Riyami)
- 9. Hospital Instruments and Purchase committee (Dr. Suleiman AL-Riyami)
- 10. Biomedical Services ACI team Leaders (Miss Huda AL-Saadi and Dr. Suleiman AL-Riyami

Faculty achievements



Dr. Maha Al Riyami

Award by Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), during the celebration of the university day by His Royal Highness Dr. Fahad Al-Said the Vice Chancellor of the University for receiving a regional award, May, 2023



Dr. Nafila Al Riyami

- Appreciation Award from Directorate General of Specialized Medical Care Ministry of Health (Point of care Best practices.
- Supervisor and principal investigator of Project that was selected by the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology as the best topic amongst topics presented by all laboratory specialties: Name of topic "Accuracy of conventional troponin cut-off value in elderly patients with suspected acute coronary syndrome" Name of Clinical Biochemistry resident: **Dr. Aisha Al-Balushi (R3)** (Supervisor and PI of the project)

New faculty & promotion

- A. For 2023 there was no new faculty joining the department. However, there was an advertisement for 2 vacant grades (1 assistant professor, and 1 associate professor) in December 2023 and hopefully they will join the department in 2024.
- B. There was no newly promoted staff in 2023.

Department of Genetics



Dr. Almundher Al MaawaliHead of Genetics Department

Message from the Head of the Department

The impact of genetics and genomics on areas of medicine has become significant. It's becoming an increasingly vital discipline to science, research, society and humanity as a whole. Genomic medicine has also started to have an impact on health care delivery where it's currently allowing pre-symptomatic diagnosis and personalized therapy and advanced tremendously in preventative genetic technologies.

Geneticists seek to understand how genes are inherited, altered, regulated and expressed, in relation to our overall understanding of the human disease. The endless possibilities on the frontiers of discovery make genetics one of the most exciting fields in biology. Our mission is to promote excellence in education and research in the field of Genetics and to provide high-quality patient care.

Reflecting the breadth of the field itself, our young and dynamic department has ample resources and potential, providing scientists and clinicians with unprecedented opportunities to make a difference. It houses multiple teams covering various disciplines of Human and Medical Genetics, each of which provides a specialized activity and service.

Department Mission

Our mission is to:

- Provide high-quality clinical and diagnostic care for families with genetic disorders.
- Educate, teach, and increase awareness of medical genetics among professionals and the community.
- Conduct research that will help with the understanding of genetic disorders and contribute to improved therapies.

Key Activities:

- Provide tertiary clinical care (inpatient and outpatient) in the fields of biochemical genetics, cancer genetics, clinical genetics and dysmorphology, and genetics counseling.
- Contribute to teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students
- Provide specialized genetic diagnostic services to Sultan Qaboos University Hospital.
- Initiate and sustain medical research in the field of Genetics and Genomics.
- Participate in activities and initiatives that aim to disseminate genetic knowledge to professionals and the general public.



STAFF

Head of Department

Almundher Al-Maawali, Senior Consultant

Faculty

Said Al-Yahyaee, Professor Girisha Katta, Professor Khalid Al-Thihli, Senior Consultant Fathiya Al-Murshedi, Senior Consultant Ghada Otiafy, Cousultant Halima Al-Shehhi, Senior Specialist Fakhriya Al-Azri, Assistant Professor

Research and college:

Hamed Al-Riyami, Associate Researcher, college Superintendent Tariq Saud Al Jabry, Associate Researcher and Superintendent Farida Al-Mammari, Biomedical Scientist

Clinical Genetics

Dr. Farah Al-Kindy Sara S. Al-Alawi, Social Worker Khalsa Al-Kharousi, Genetic Counsellor Amal Al-Fori, Genetic Counsellor Rahma Ambu Saidi, Biomedical scientist

Molecular Genetics

Mariam Al-Nabhani, Hospital Superintendent Feisal Al-Mahrizi, Biomedical Scientist Samia Al-Rashdi, Biomedical Scientist Sami Al-Kalbani, Biomedical Scientist Lina Noori Al-Mashidani, Biomedical Scientist Naima Al-Yarubi, Biomedical Scientist Amjaad Al-Shukri, Biomedical Scientist Gandham Sri lakshmi Bhavani, Senior Specialist Zahra Saif Hilal Al-Shabibi, Biomedical scientist

Cytogenetics

Shoma S. Raj, Biomedical Scientist Sultan S. Al-Salhi, Biomedical Scientist Raja Al-Amri, Biomedical Scientist Aisha Al-Hajri, Biomedical Scientist Raya Al-Mughairi, Biomedical Scientist

Immunogenetics

Faiza Al-Yahyai, Senior Biomedical Scientist Suriyan Mani, Senior Biomedical Scientist Iman H. Al-Hadhili, Biomedical Scientist Faiza Al-Ghanami, Biomedical Scientist

Support Staff

Ruqaya Al-Dughaishi, Coordinator (College) Soad S. Al-Muqaimi, Coordinator (Clinic) Mohammed Al-Badawi, Reporter

Faculty achievements

Dr. Halima Al-Shehhi: Certificate of appreciation in recognition of the commitment and valued contribution to the delivery of the College's educational program.

Teaching Programmes

The Department of Genetics participates in teaching and training medical students, allied health students, and clinicians in the rapidly evolving field of genetics.

Undergraduate Program

Preclinical Program

The department is involved in a significant amount of undergraduate teaching and training in the College of Medicine & Health Sciences. It coordinates the new Cell Biology course (MDLS3103). We also contribute to the Molecular Biology and the Principles of Genetics (MEDI3101) course with lectures and tutorials on molecular genetics and cytogenetics.

The department also participates in the annual teaching rotations and training of doctors and students proceeding to the second and third year of their degree (MEDI4301, MEDI5401, MEDI4403). This is achieved through laboratory-based workshops as follows: (1) a biannual workshop for training in standard laboratory techniques in molecular genetics; and (2) rotation of students and doctors in the diagnostic laboratories (Cytogenetics, Immunogenetics, and Molecular Genetics). This includes training and an observation course on genetics techniques organized in January and June of each academic year. The department also contributes to two instrumentation and Molecular Diagnostic courses that are integral to the allied health program (MDLS3102 and MDLS4102).

Clinical Program

The department is involved in the following clinical teaching activities: (1) clinical (bedside and outpatient) teaching for residents, senior house officers, and registrars; (2) Junior Clerkship clinical genetics and counselling rotation, an intense 2 weeks course format structured rotation that takes place every six weeks; (3) two seminars on the approach to metabolic diseases for final year MD students; (4) a three-hour clinical lecture for nursing students from the Ministry of Health from Muscat, Dhakhilia and Sharqiya regions; and (5) a genetics lecture for 7th-year medical Obstetrics & Gynaecology rotation students repeated every six weeks with 25–28 students in each batch.

Finally, the department contributes to the teaching in the College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences and the College of Nursing with lectures on genetics and nutrigenomics.

Postgraduate Program

The Department conducts its PhD programme in Genetics and Genomics and currently has two PhD students. We also contribute to various postgraduate programmes such as the Master's programme in Biochemistry, the Senior House Officer in-house training and the Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB) residents training programme in Haematology and Biochemistry by conducting classes on cytogenetics, molecular genetics, and immunogenetics. We are also actively involved in training residents on rotation on medical genetics and biochemical genetics (inborn errors of metabolism). Clinicians from the Department are among the OMSB trainers associated with the Paediatrics Residency Training Program.

The department is running the first fellowship program at the hospital. The Oman Medical Speciality Board accredits the Medical Genetic and Genomic fellowship program. The program extends over a period of three years. The first year focuses on medical genetics core concepts (including diagnostic laboratory specialties). The following two years of the program will focus on higher specialty training in the two main branches; Clinical Genetics and Clinical Biochemical Genetics. The mission of the Medical Genetics Fellowship Training Program is to provide specialized training in the fields of Clinical Genetics and Clinical Biochemical Genetics at a level that meets international standards.

Training Courses & CME Activities

The Omani staff members of the department are frequently sent abroad for further training in genetics (residency training, PhDs, and short training courses). There are also regular in-house training activities in genetics for the staff and for Omani graduates from SQU and abroad and in 2023, our genetics laboratory staff trained 17 Omani and Non-Omani graduated students.

Senior staff members are encouraged to actively participate in international meetings to ensure adequate continuing medical education credits are obtained for the maintenance of their certifications.

Clinical & Diagnostic Services

Clinical Genetics

The clinical arm of the department, represented by the Genetic & Developmental Medicine Clinic, aspires to provide standard-of-care services for individuals and families with genetic disorders (diagnosis, genetic counselling, management, and social support), in addition to teaching and research. In 2021, the departmental clinical genetics team was involved in the diagnostic evaluation and management of hundreds of patients and their families, including inpatient consultations and outpatient clinic referrals. In 2021, our clinical geneticists provided more than 4500 outpatient consultations, in addition to a similar number of inpatient consultations.

The Clinical Genetics team also contributed to the care of metabolic patients, including the inpatient care of patients with inborn errors of metabolism. Nearly one-third of acute paediatric admissions in SQUH are for indications related to inborn errors of metabolism; the Department contributes significantly to the management of these patients as part of the Hospital's multidisciplinary care team.

Our clinical unit is actively involved in liaison with other clinical services in designing, arranging, and facilitating clinical research that may have direct or indirect genetic implications. Clinical genetic services naturally imply dealing with rare disorders and these are typically associated with ongoing research questions that are being explored on a family or individual basis as indicated by clinical needs. So far, several families have been involved in clinical research or are currently considering involvement.

The clinical team are significant player in the Oman Medical Specialty Program (OMSB) where we accepted above 20 trainees from the following programs: Paediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynaecology, Dermatology, Clinical Dermatology, and Clinical Biochemistry programs. The clinic also accepted 10 international trainees (doctors and trainees in genetic counselling).

Genome Diagnostics Laboratories

The department provides diagnostic laboratory services to SQUH and other regional hospitals when clinically judged necessary for some specialized testing. The diagnostic laboratory services span to include the following sections:

1. Clinical Cytogenetic Laboratory

The Clinical Cytogenetics Laboratory at SQUH performs approximately 800 tests annually. These tests are processed using both conventional cytogenetics (chromosome analysis) and molecular cytogenetic techniques (fluorescence in situ hybridization).

The laboratory offers constitutional chromosome analysis of blood (peripheral blood and umbilical cord) and amniotic fluid. Postnatal molecular cytogenetic tests target common microdeletion syndromes such as Prader-Willi syndrome, DiGeorge syndrome, Williams syndrome, and 1p36 deletion syndrome.

Aneuploidy detection of chromosomes 13, 18, 21, X, and Y can be done using fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH). The laboratory also offers an oncological chromosomal analysis of bone-marrow samples from hematological malignancies. These include acute/chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute/chronic myeloid leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, myeloproliferative disorders, plasma myeloma, lymphoproliferative disorders, different types of lymphomas, and other hematological malignancies.

In addition, the laboratory offers a wide range of FISH panels to detect the prognostically relevant abnormalities in the above-mentioned hematological malignancies, which in turn help in the proper management of these patients.

2. National Tissue Typing Laboratory

The National Tissue Typing Laboratory is the only national laboratory that provides tissue typing in the Sultanate of Oman. The laboratory performs an average of 3000 tissue typing diagnostic assessments per year.

3. Molecular Genetics and Genomic Laboratory (MGGL)

The Molecular Genetics and Genomics Laboratory provides routine services to SQUH and national Hospitals. It receives an average of 2000 specimens for DNA banking or genetic testing.

The biochemical geneticists from the department also provide interpretive services to the Biochemical Genetics Laboratory currently under the administration of the Department of Biochemistry.

RESEARCH

Research Projects

SQU, Internal grant funding (2022-2024): PHASE1: Oman Genome Project: a path to understand the implications of Omani Variome in health and disease.

SQU, Internal grant funding (2022-2024): Functional Characterization of Clinically Relevant Genetic Variants.

Community initiative

The Department of Genetics proudly boasts a vibrant community engagement program led by its dedicated members. They actively organize and participate in various educational initiatives, ensuring knowledge about genetics reaches diverse audiences. This includes creating training courses for medical professionals and nurses, engaging in ongoing scientific service (such as manuscript and grant reviews, and editorial board memberships), and hosting outreach events like Rare Disease Day and youth-focused genomics workshops. Beyond community initiatives, individual faculty members demonstrate exceptional leadership and expertise through prestigious roles like Associate Editor for the American Journal of Medical Genetics Part A, Section Editor for the European Journal of Human Genetics, and invited speakers at international conferences. Their commitment to quality extends to serving on review boards for private genetics laboratories, professional societies (Oman Society of Genetic Medicine), and hospital committees (SQUH's Pediatric/Oncology team, adult and pediatric tumor boards). These active contributions solidify the department's role as a key player in advancing the field of genetics and its accessibility within the community.

Department of Hematology



Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Hematology at the College of Medicine & Health Sciences and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital continues to serve as a cornerstone of both clinical and academic excellence. Our department is dedicated to advance the understanding and treatment of hematologic conditions through innovative research, comprehensive education, and exceptional patient care. Our department operates at the intersection of clinical practice and academic inquiry. This dual focus allows us to provide state-of-the-art care to patients, while also pushing the boundaries of medical knowledge through rigorous research and scholarly activity. Our clinical services cover a wide spectrum of hematologic disorders, ensuring that patients receive the most advanced and effective treatments available. Concurrently, our academic programs are designed to train the next generation of hematologists, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in both clinical and research settings.

Hematological Conditions in Oman: A Unique Challenge

The prevalence of hematologic conditions in Oman presents a different set of challenges and opportunities for our department. Cultural and lifestyle factors play an important role in the epidemiology of these diseases. For example, consanguineous marriages, which are culturally prevalent in the region, contribute to the higher incidence of genetic blood disorders such as thalassemia and sickle cell anemia. Furthermore, diet habits and environmental factors influence the spectrum and severity of the hematological conditions observed in our population of patients.

These factors result in a wide spectrum of hematologic conditions that affect people from childhood to adulthood. This demographic reality underscores the importance of customised public health strategies and specialised medical care. Our department remains at the forefront of addressing these challenges through targeted research, community outreach, and patient education programmes aimed at prevention, early detection, and effective management of these conditions.



STAFF

Head of Department

Murtadha Al-Khabouri,, Senior Consultant

Deputy Head of Department

Bader Al Rawahi, Senior Consultant

Faculty

Salam Alkindi, Professor/Senior Consultant Khalil Al-Farsi, Senior Consultant Mohammed Al Hunaini, Senior Consultant Arwa Al-Riyami, Senior Consultant Hammad Khan, Consultant Thuraya Al-Busaidi, Consultant Mariyam Al-Bakri, Clinical Lecturer Ibrahim Al-Nabhani, Clinical Lecturer Shadhiya Al Khan, Consultant Mahmood Al Abri, Consultant Mahmood Al Abri, Consultant Fatma Al Bulushi, Senior Specialist Yasir Jeelani, Senior Registrar Khaleq Unnisa, Senior Registrar Nisham P Narikuth, Senior Registrar

Rizwan Qureshi, Registrar Vinodh Panjwani, Registrar Zainab Al Hosni, Registrar Mohamed Rehan, Senior House Officer Moez H. A. Rahim, Senior House Officer Abubakr Awadh, Senior House Officer Ghalib Al Khadouri, Senior House Officer Muzna Aquil, Medical Officer Salim Al Ruqaishi, Medical Officer

Laboratory Staff:

Sahimah Al Mamari, Senior Specialist A-Medical Lab/T3, Haematology Lab Superintendent (SQUH) Mohammed Al-Rawahi, Specialist B- Medical Lab/T6, Hematology Lab Superintendent (College of Medicine)

Dr. Ali Al Marhoubi, Senior Specialist A-Medical Lab/T2

Hamood Al Haddabi, Senior Specialist A-Medical Lab/T2

Sumaiya Al Hinai, Senior Specialist A-Medical Lab/T3

Dr. Maryam Al-Barashdi, Senior Specialist A-Medical Lab/T3

Karima Al Falahi, Senior Specialist -Medical Lab/T4

Jamal Al-Qassabi, Senior Specialist -Medical Lab/T4

Badriya Al-Balushi, Specialist A- Medical Labs. /T5

Dr. Suha Al Lawati, Specialist A- Medical Labs. /T5

Saif Al-Hosni, Specialist A- Medical Labs. /T5

Melanie Tauro, Specialist B- Medical Labs. /T6

Isehaq Al-Omairi, Specialist B- Medical Labs. /T6

Fatma Al-Hashmi, Specialist - Medical Labs. /T7

Al Shaima Taqi, Specialist - Medical Labs./T7

Najah Mohd Redha Al-Lawati- Specialist - Medical Labs. /T7

Dr. Maryam Al-Barashdi, Senior Specialist A-Medical Lab/T3

Zainab Khamis Al-Dhuhoori, Specialist - Medical Labs. /T7

Raya Hilal Hamed Al Farsi, Specialist - Medical Labs. /T7

Maha Al-Shehhi, Technician A – Medical Lab/T8

Rua Al-Zaabi, Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Ahmed Al Hosni, Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Ahoud Abd Said Al-Saadi- Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Houda S Al-Hinaai, Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Karima S Al-Barhi, Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Iman K Al-Shamli Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Ibrahim Al Kalbani Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Ahmed Al Hosni Technician A - Medical Lab/T9

Hajer Al Senaidi Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Hafsa Al Shaqsi Mariam Al Ghunaimi Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Samar Al Ghafri Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Amani Al Zadjali Arwa Al Ghafri Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Asma Al Ghjalabi Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Thikra Al -Dhuhli Technician A -Medical Lab/T9

Sharifa Al-Muharbi Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Jalila Al-Sheriani Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Moza Alghabri Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Waad Al Hamadi Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Haya Al Rashdi Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Mohammed Alshaidi Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Mohammed Al-Zain Technician A – Medical Lab/T9/T

Arwa Al-Fazari Technician A - Medical Lab/T9

Mairybeth Technician A – Medical Lab/T9/T

Arwa Al Ghafri, Technician A – Medical Lab/T9

Nursing Staff

Eduardo Philip Roa

Nuha Al-Kiyumi

Rose Sally

Victoria G. Menezes

Shiney Thomas

Silva Kumari

Bindu Shiby

Shobha Sujith

Helen Carteza

Mhey Agilano

Moosa Al-Aboodi

Ishaq Al Mamari

Admin Staff

Dalal Y. Al-Khusaibi, Coordinator Specialist (B) Manal Al Ghafri, Coordinator Specialist (C) Fatma Al Mazroi, Social Specialist

Ali Al-Kiyari, Medical Orderly

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The National Omani Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Center has been partially operational for day care and outpatient services since October 2023, marking a transition from the previous hematology center. Throughout 2023, a diverse range of patients with hematological disorders received treatment as both inpatients and outpatients. Notably, a Thalassemia Day Care Unit provided comprehensive care for approximately 157 patients with transfusion-dependent and intermediate thalassemia.

One significant aspect is the successful Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) program, which saw a total of 563 transplants by December 2023, boasting outcomes comparable to leading global centers. Meanwhile, the laboratory sections and blood bank maintained their high-quality services, benefitting from advanced technologies implemented successfully. A notable addition to the country's medical landscape is the introduction of Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) by the microbiology lab in coordination with other departments, enhancing patient safety standards at SQUH.

Comprehensive Clinical Programmes

Clinical hematology services include various programs that provide comprehensive diagnostic care and management to patients with benign and malignant hematological disorders. Our clinical programs include the following:

Bone marrow transplantation (BMT)

The BMT programme, established in the department since 1995, serves the entire country and continues to provide curative treatment to patients with hematologic malignancies, bone marrow failure, and potentially fatal genetic diseases. On average 22-30 allogeneic transplants are performed annually. Autologous transplants began in 2004, with an average of 5 to 8 transplants per year, totalling 98 transplants.

In 2023, 34 transplants were performed - 28 allogeneic and 6 autologous transplants. This makes a total of 563 transplants since 1995. In-addition 50 Donor Leukocyte Infusions were given to patients.

The results of our transplant centre are comparable to those of the best centres in the world. Additionally, we have also collected and cryopreserved stem cells from 41 patients (6 Autologous, 18 Allogeneic, 7 Bone Marrow and 10 DLI) in our liquid nitrogen storage facility for future use.

Extracorporeal photopheresis

Treatment was launched for the first time in Oman at SQUH on January 15, 2023. It is a medical treatment for patients with BMT with graft-versus-host disease (GVHD)

Sickle Cell Disease

The department treats a large number of patients with sickle cell disease, approximately 3000 providing acute medical care, genetic counselling, and preventive programmes (including cord blood and premarital testing). The department plays a crucial role in community outreach programmes through the Hereditary Blood Disorders Society. Several patients with severe SCD have benefited from the active role of the department in the transplantation of these patients from sibling donors with good success.

Lymphoma and Myeloma

The department is an important tertiary care centre for adult hematologic malignancies, particularly lymphomas and myelomas. Patients receive state-of-the-art care, including allogeneic and autologous BMT and advanced molecular diagnostics for proper assessment and follow-up.

Leukemia

This unit, established at the beginning of 2014, provides referrals to patients with leukemia from SQUH and other hospitals throughout the country and abroad. Patients receive world-class diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, including updated chemotherapy protocols and allogeneic BMT as needed.

Thalassemia

The department manages approximately 157 patients with thalassemia, providing comprehensive care, including blood transfusions, chelation therapy, and regular monitoring of side effects and complications. The unit is a centre of excellence in the region, with a large involvement in care and research, including participation in international clinical trials. The availability of advanced T2 * magnetic resonance imaging equipment in the Department of Radiology & Molecular Imaging has significantly improved the monitoring of cardiac and liver iron overload in these patients.

Outreach Clinics Programme

The Department conducts a monthly haematology clinic at several hospitals as part of the Outreach Clinics programme. This has benefitted the patient population living in and around the catchment area of these clinics. The implementation of this programme means that these patients do not have to travel all the way to SQUH for routine medications and consultations. Monthly clinics are currently held at Nizwa Hospital and Sohar Hospital.

Haemostasis / thrombosis

The department provides diagnostic and care services for bleeding and thrombotic disorders, including thrombosis, von Willebrand disease, haemophilia, and platelet disorders.

LABORATORY SERVICES:

Hematpathology Laboratory

General hematology: Offers 24/7 diagnostic tests, including complete blood count, reticulocyte count, sickle cell test, G6PD test, infectious mononucleosis test, and malaria parasite testing. Also, performs a morphological examination of blood films, bone marrow aspirates, and various body fluids.

Hemostasis & Hemoglobinopathy laboratories

Haemostasis: Provides 24-hour coagulation profiling (PT, APTT, TT and Fibrinogen), D-dimer testing, and hemoglobin variant analysis. During work hours, the laboratory also performs thrombophilia check-up, antithrombin, protein C and S tests, coagulation factor assays, lupus anticoagulant, platelet function assays, and hemoglobin electrophoresis.

Molecular Research & Diagnostic Laboratory

Molecular testing: Operates during regular hours, focussing on gene mutations for CML, AML, ALL, APML, and MPN. Also, tests for post-transplant chimerism and perforin gene mutations.

Flow Cytometry Laboratory

Flow cytometry: Available during working hours, providing immunophenotyping for various panels (acute, LPD, plasma cells, selective markers). In addition, conducts B-ALL remission checks, PNH clone detection, platelet glycoprotein detection, lymphocyte subset analysis, CD34 + enumeration, and CD3+ count for donor lymphocyte infusion.

Blood Bank & Apheresis Unit

Blood Bank Services: Open 24/7, including holidays, offering patient blood grouping, antibody screening and identification, DAT, cross-matching, and issuing compatible blood products (PRBC, platelets, FFP, and cryoprecipitate). Processes donor blood units, performs group checks, detects antibodies, and rhesus phenotyping. It also provides anti-A and anti-B titres, extended phenotyping of RBC, and Kleihauer test for the estimation of foetal haemorrhage.

Busulfan Pharmacokinetics

Optimization of busulfan dosage in patients undergoing BMT is recommended in order to reduce the toxic effects associated with high drug levels. This section takes care of busulfan pharmacokinetics in patients undergoing BMT to assess the blood levels of the drug in order to optimize treatment protocols. A new API 3200TM LC/MS/MS system was installed in the Department in December 2014.

Research Initiatives & Funding

The Department of Hematology is actively involved in a variety of research projects supported by multiple grants. Our research initiatives are classified into several funding programmes. Research Initiatives

Stem Cell and Cellular-Based Therapies: One of the main research has focused on the establishment of a national centre for stem cell translational research. This initiative aims to develop novel cellular therapies and tissue repair techniques.

Artificial Intelligence in Hematology: The department has explored the applications of artificial intelligence in the diagnosis and management of hematologic conditions such as thrombocytopenia.

Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation: Strategic priorities for hemotopoietic stem cell transplantation in the eastern Mediterranean region are being defined to improve treatment outcomes.

COVID-19 Related Research: Research on the impact of COVID-19 on patients with chronic myeloid leukemia and other hematologic conditions is ongoing. This includes studying mortality rates and complications associated with the disease.

TEACHING PROGRAMMES

Undergraduate Programme

The Department developed and taught a module on Haematology and Immunology in Phase II of the undergraduate curriculum. It also participated and coordinated the various courses in Phase II of the curriculum, in particular Integrated Modules I, II and III. Furthermore, it participated in and coordinated the preclerkship respiratory course and participated in the junior clerkship training with various seminars on complete blood count, coagulation and anemia with additional bedside teaching on sickle cell vaso-occlusive crises, splenomegaly and lymphadenopathy, as well as a practical demonstration on bone marrow aspirate/trephine.

The Department also developed and conducted senior clerkship Phase III teaching, which involves seminars, tutorials and clinical attachments for two weeks in each group, in collaboration with the Department of Child Health, as well as developing and conducting laboratory rotations for these students. Finally, departmental staff taught in Research Modules I, II and III.

Postgraduate Programme

The Department developed and taught the Hematopathology course along with the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Royal Hospital which is affiliated with the OMSB.

PUBLICATIONS

Members of the department regularly publish their findings in journals, book chapters, textbooks, and encyclopaedias. These publications cover a variety of topics such as:

Guidelines and consensus statements: Members of the Department are increasingly invited as expert panels to provide evidence-based recommendations for clinical practice.

Clinical Studies and Reviews: Articles like the systematic review of concurrent coronary artery disease and immune thrombocytopenia and reviews of strategic priorities for stem cell transplantation are examples of comprehensive clinical studies conducted.

Long-term follow-up studies: Studies such as the one on the long-term follow-up of Omani patients with major beta-thalassemia provide valuable data on the results and complications of chronic hematological conditions.

Collaborative Research: The department collaborates with international institutions and researchers, which is evident from multi-author studies involving contributors from various countries, enhancing the scope and impact of their research.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Message from the Head of the Department



Dr. Zaaima Al JabriHead of Microbiology and
Immunology Department

As we reflect on the accomplishments and progress of the past year, I am honored to present the Annual Report for the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the College of Medicine. It is with great pride that I highlight the vision and commitment of our department to excellence in medical education, pioneering research, and impactful community service.

At the core of our department's vision lies the dedication to providing high-quality medical education that equips our students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundation necessary to excel in the field of healthcare. The department contributed to teaching Phase II and phase III MD program, BMS program, nursing program and postgraduate programs both MSc and PhD. The postgraduate program was reevaluated after preparation of submission of a Self-study report to the QAAAU.

Our department is at the forefront of research endeavors aimed at advancing our understanding of microbiology and immunology to address pressing health challenges. The department continues to work on the multicentric study on prescribing practices and education in UTI, spanning Middle east, Indian Subcontinent and United Kingdom entitled: A multicentric study to promote antimicrobial stewardship in the management of UTI: an experiment in mentorship to expand a one health concept. The study included more that 50 centres from around the world.

We are committed to conducting rigorous and impactful research that contributes to scientific knowledge, drives medical innovation, and ultimately improves patient outcomes. Some examples of completed research projects include application of Proteomics and immunological biomarkers as technologies in hematological malignancies. Additionally, research projects shedding light into the prevalence of *H. pylori* in Oman and in depth understanding of molecular resistance determinants utilising genomics. Ongoing project highlights An Inquiry into the Clinical Outcomes, Virulence, Susceptibility to Newer Antimicrobials and in-vitro and in-vivo antimicrobial synergy of Extremely and Pan Drug Resistant Gram-Negative Bacilli.

Recognizing our responsibility to serve and support the communities we belong to; our department actively engages in outreach initiatives and community service endeavors. Two symposia were conducted as part of a global collaboration: A DASH to protect Antibiotics initiative and "Artificial intelligence and us on 11th of June 23 and 21 October 23, respectively. In addition, the department in collaboration with internal Medicine department organised and conducted an outreach activity on the HIV Day on 15th of December, and the "Antimicrobial awareness day" on 27th December.

In conclusion, I am immensely proud of the collective achievements and contributions of our department over the past year. As we look to the future, we remain unwavering in our commitment to excellence and service, guided by our vision of advancing medical education, research, and community engagement for the betterment of healthcare and society at large.

Thank you to all our faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders for your unwavering



Key Performance Indicators (Clinical Microbiology Laboratory)

1. The blood culture contamination rate was chosen as a quality indicator and was monitored monthly. The target rate is <3%

The staff in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology have noticed that most of the blood culture bottles growing contaminants with doubtful significance came from the Department of Emergency Medicine. We reviewed the blood culture contamination data which confirmed the observation. This is most likely due to improper collection procedures. Unfortunately, as a result, our contamination rate exceeds the recommended acceptable rate of <3%.

Action plan: to improve this rate, a task force with the help of the Directorate of Development and Quality, and the Department of Infection Prevention and Control was formulated to follow up with the Department of Emergency Medicine and arrange training for their staff to ensure the best practice guidelines for blood culture collection are followed.

2. The turnaround time for CSF microscopy was chosen as a quality indicator and was monitored monthly. The target TAT is 2 hours.

The staff in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology have noticed that the targeted TAT for CSF microscopy was not achieved in some instances.

We investigated these requests and found that the main reason to focus on was the delay in authorizing the report by the scientist. However, this was found in the minority of requests presented in the graph below. The majority were related to how the data was pulled since the system will not separate microscopy from culture and will calculate TAT based on when the culture result is reported. In these instances, the initial microscopy result was released on time, but due to several factors (e.g., waiting for results from the reference lab, prolonging the incubation, re-culturing the sample, etc.), the report was de-authorized.

Action plan: to work with HIS to ensure only microscopy TAT is included in the final analysis.

3. Postgraduate Program review (MSc and PhD). The postgraduate program has undergone extensive review by external reviewers, under the supervision of the university Quality Assurance unit, following the submission of a comprehensive self-study report. The program passed the review with a few recommendations.

Action plan: Establish an action plan for the Postgraduate Program review. The department submitted the action plan on time to be implemented within the next 5 years.

New Faculty & Promotion

Dr. Ghada Al Rawahi, promoted to a consultant grade.

Faculty Achievements

Description of award/achievement:

- 1. Awards for University teaching and learning
 - ❖ Best MSc thesis in the University Day, Mrs. Basaier Al Busaidi

2. Awards for Scholarly activities

Societies and other organizations, editorial accolades, best researcher awards, experts, assessors, and external referees for overseas institutions.

* The research project titled "In vitro, susceptibility testing of fosfomycin against gramnegative bacteria using agar dilution, gradient diffusion, disc diffusion, and

PhoenixTM", which is supervised by our department has won the best resident research during the Microbiology Program research and retreat day, 2023.

Educational Highlights

Modification of MEDI3104 Response to Infection and Pathobiology

1- This course has been undergoing continued modifications to improve course organization and delivery since the Fall of 2018. This year live recording was done for all didactic lectures.

2- After closing the Fall 2022 semester:

Student feedback from the College course and teaching survey (CTS) was reviewed and the following actions were taken:

- Meetings with the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee and the Phase 2 Coordinator together with the other contributing departments (Department of Pathology and Department of Pharmacology) were held, and the course contents were reviewed and updated to:
 - a. ensure appropriate integration within each department.
 - b. remove overlap in course content across departments.
 - c. emphasize contents that are more relevant to our community remove redundancy and decrease emphasis on uncommon pathology.
- Increased bacteriology, virology, and mycology lectures and tutorial/practical sessions and decreased parasitology content to reflect the national/regional relevance and newly emerging global health concerns.
- All lecture slides were reviewed and updated to ensure that the contents were appropriate to the student level and the reading resources were updated and appropriate.
- 3- During the Fall 2023 semester:
 - Revised course contents were delivered.
 - Each lecture was recorded live to provide the students the opportunity to revise content, given its heavy load (5 credits, first multidisciplinary course in the MD curriculum).

Participated in conducting team-based learning sessions in MEDI4201 Integrated Module I in Spring 2023.

• New course development: Working on developing an online course titled "Antimicrobial therapy" for OMSB residents on the OMSB platform Tebyan.

Accreditation achievement etc

Clinical Activity

New procedures

- Synergy testing by E strips.
- Phenotypic detection of AmpC

Involvement in OMSB activities

- Associate program director for the microbiology program.
- Member of the task force for creating an Adult Infectious Diseases Fellowship program.
- Deputy of the examination office, in the medical microbiology program, OMSB.
- Member of the educational committee, OMSB

Research Highlights

- Grants from all departments (Internal and external grants only)
 - one for the "In vitro susceptibility testing of fosfomycin against gram-negative bacteria using agar dilution, gradient diffusion, disc diffusion, and PhoenixTM" project.
 - Internal Grant #IG/MED/MICR/24/01, #IG/MED/MICR/22/01,

- Ongoing clinical trials

 "Eradication of Carbapenem-Resistant Klebsiella Pneumoniae Gastrointestinal Colonization and Prevention of Secondary Bloodstream Infections with Oral Colistin: a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trial", led by Dr. Abdullah Balkhair.

- Books and book chapters published.

- Epidemiology and mortality outcome of carbapenem- and colistinresistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae, Escherichia coli, Acinetobacter baumannii*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bloodstream infections. Balkhair A, Saadi KA, **Adawi BA.**IJID Reg. 2023 Jan 8;7:1-5. doi: 10.1016/j.ijregi.2023.01.002. eCollection 2023 Jun.PMID: 36936715
- <u>Case Series of Cystic Echinococcosis Over a Twelve-year Period at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Oman.</u> Hassan KS, Al Balushi A; Prashanth Kumar P1; Wazir HB, Al Adawi B.Oman Med J. 2023 Mar 31;38(2):e482. doi: 10.5001/omj.2023.61. eCollection 2023 Mar.PMID: 37009206

Producing successful PhD candidates

- Safa AL Amrani, Acute Myeloid Leukemia biomarkers Discovery using proteomics approaches.

Community Initiative

- 2) All community service-related items will be covered such as...
- 1. Assessed KAP of pre-analytic diagnostic stewardship among Nurses and Patients
- 2. Delivered educational sessions in Depts of Obs and Gynae, Medicine, and FAMCO on
- 3. Bugs and Us
- 4. Judicious antimicrobial prescribing
- 3) Activities published in media.

Participated in a discussion organized by The Observer, Oman in Artificial Intelligence-The Way Forward on 14th June 2023.

- 4) Conducting/organizing conferences/ workshops
- 5) Two Symposia were organised (11 June 23 and 21 October 23:

A DASH to protect Antibiotics initiative.

- 6) Keynote/Guest speaker/Invited talks
- Innate Antigen Presenting Cells and Nucleic Acid Sensing TLRs: Insights on the Production of Midkine and Pleiotrophin. **Keynote Speaker in** *the* 11th International Conference of Arab Society of Stem Cell and Molecular Biology, Online Cairo, Egypt, 2023. (Dr Elias Said)
- Antimicrobial and Diagnostic Stewardship. Sohar hospital, Ministry of health. 24th August 2023. (Dr Meher Rizvi)
 - 7) Offering services outside the University: Providing guidance in diagnostic and antimicrobial stewardship to many centres in MOH and outside Oman (40 centers) (Dr. Meher Rizvi)
 - 8) Member of a MOH Committee: Reducing over-prescription of medication initiative. (Dr. Meher Rizvi)
 - 9) a lecture" Flow Cytometry in Diagnosis of IEI". Immunology Fellowship Didactic Educational Activity virtually held on 05th January 2023 in Doha, Qatar. Virtual. (Dr. Jalila AL Shekaili)
 - 10) Invited speaker for a case presentation "MYD88 deficiency and Neutrophil dysfunction" European Society for Immunodeficiencies (ESID) Diagnostic Workshop 2023, Frieberg, Germany 4-6 Dec 2023. (Dr. Jalila AL Shekai

[&]quot;Artificial intelligence and us

Department of Pathology



Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Pathology is fully committed to the College of Medicine & Health Sciences' (COM&HS) and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital's (SQUH) mission of teaching, research, patient care and community service.

This year had been a busy year for the Pathology Department. One of the major highlights was The Pathology Symposium held in March 2023 covering the topics of thyroid pathology, dermatopathology and laboratory management. Lectures were delivered by two invited international speakers from Nottingham University Hospitals and more than 100 participants including pathologists and biomedical scientists attended the symposium from the various healthcare institutions in the country.

Several faculty and biomedical scientists participated in regional and international conferences as invited guest speakers or presented their research work as poster abstracts. Two faculty members were awarded internal grants to conduct research work. There were around 20 publications from the department including original work as well as case reports. In addition, the department continued to support and participate in many collaborative research projects with involvement of both faculty and biomedical scientists with researchers from other departments, SQU colleges and outside academic institutions.

Two of our senior biomedical scientists completed their PhD degrees and one completed an MSc degree. Two biomedical scientists started their MSc degrees in 2023 and one is in the final year of the same.

The department welcomed three new 'administration and archiving specialists' and three biomedical scientists and saw the departure of two staff: one biomedical and one administrative.

As part of the department's commitment to teaching the World Federation for Medical Education-accredited M.D. curriculum, the faculty embarked on conducting a comprehensive curriculum review and mapping for the system-based modules. The department has also been actively engaged in the CoM&HS preparations for re-accreditation of the M.D. program attending several lectures and preparing relevant documents. And as part of its commitment to the B.Sc. Biomedical Science program which is accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Science (UK), the department contributed to the development of the Introduction to Pathology course for Biomedical Science and work is ongoing on establishing a joint MSc program with the Biomedical Science Department.

The department is also one of the main training sites for the Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB) Residency program in Anatomical Pathology and rotating Residents from other programs. Seven faculty members and one biomedical scientist are trainers and some hold leadership roles. Additionally, the department is highly sought after by medical and biomedical students, graduates, and qualified pathologists for training opportunities.

The department not only provides clinical service to SQUH but also receives cases for reporting and second opinions from some of the Ministry of Health hospitals and polyclinics, the Armed Forces Hospital, and some private health institutions. In order to continue to provide specialized diagnostic services in surgical pathology, cytopathology, immunohistochemistry, electron microscopy, and molecular pathology through its highly skilled staff, the department organized several training workshops related to pre-analytics and lab quality and accreditation. Furthermore, the department expanded on the range of tests being offered particularly immunohistochemistry and rapid synovial fluid examination for crystals, and increased the use of automation in histochemistry. Several new equipment were also purchased in all the lab sections to ensure the smooth running of the work.

In addition, in its commitment to maintaining high-quality standards, the Department subscribes to International External Quality Assurance Programs in Anatomical pathology, cytopathology, and immunohistochemistry including both diagnostic (subspecialty) and technical modules. In addition, the department started a peer review on thyroid cytology which is still ongoing.

The Department is committed to community service and as Part of this initiative contributed to the Annual International Biomedical Science Day, blood donation campaign and received several school groups interested in learning about Pathology and electron microscopy.

Staff

▶ Head of Department:

Dr. Marwa Al Riyami, Senior Consultant

> Assistant Head of Department:

Dr. Radiya A. Al-Ajmi, Senior Consultant

> Faculty:

Dr. Mohammed Arafa, Associate Professor

Dr. Asem Shalaby, Associate Professor

Dr. Aisha Al Hamdani, Senior Consultant

Dr. Suad Al-Jahdhami, Senior Consultant

Dr. Asim Qureshi, Consultant

Dr. Asmaa Al-Shehhi, Consultant

Dr. Abdelhadi Shebl, Consultant

Dr. Maiya Al-Bahri, Consultant

Dr. Fathiya Al-Rahbi, Consultant

Dr. Shaymaa Gamal, Senior Medical Officer

> Superintendents:

College Superintendent:

Dr. Khalaf Al-Gharibi

Hospital Superintendent:

Ms. Horiya Al-Azri

College Biomedical Scientists:

Mr. Mohammed Al-Kindi, Biomedical Scientist

Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Nabhani, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Nadia Al-Abri, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Fatma Al-Ghafri, Biomedical Scientist

Hospital Biomedical Scientists: (3 new staff)

Dr. Samira Al-Rawahi, Chief Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Shadia Al-Sinawi, Chief Biomedical Scientist

Dr. Kawther Al Adawi, Senior Specialist Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Sheikha Al Harthi, Senior Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Najat Al Dairi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Amna Al-Shukeili, Biomedical Scientist

Mr. Bader Al-Sumri, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Muna Al-Sarkhi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Safaa Al-Rawahi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Afrah Al-Rashdi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Maryam Al-Subhi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Samiya Al Husaini, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Suaad Al Badi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Ruqaya Al Rashdi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Khadija Al Balushi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Marwa Al Shukri, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Fatma Al Azwani, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Nedhal Al Husaini, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Maryam Al Badi, Biomedical Scientist

Ms. Hajer Al Badi, Biomedical Scientist

Mr. Sami Al Badi, Biomedical Scientist

Mr. Richard B. Syjuco, Mortician/Embalmer

Mr. Ahmed Al Shuaibi, Biomedical Scientist.

Mr. Mahmood Al Badowi, Biomedical Scientist.

Mr. Khalfan Al Jabri, Biomedical Scientist.

➤ Hospital Administrative Staff: (2 new staff)

Ms. Nadeera K. Ammu, Medical Coordinator

Ms. Lubna Al-Abri, Coordination, follow up & Archive Specialist

Ms. Moza Al Balushi, Medical Coordinator.

Ms. Zainab Al Jadeedi, Medical Coordinator.

➤ College Administrative Staff: (1 new staff)

Ms. Malak Al Shuhoumi, Coordination, follow up & Archive Specialist Ms. Jessy Gorge, Coordinator, (January to September 2023)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Faculty Achievements:

✓ **Dr. Radiya A. Al-Ajmi** received the "Best Doctor Award" in the University Day celebration held in May 2023.

Staff Achievements:

- ✓ Ms. Nadia Al-Abri, a Biomedical Scientist in the electron microscopy core facility received the "Best Employee Award" in the University Day celebration held in May 2023.
- ✓ **Dr. Kawthar Al Adawi**, a Biomedical Scientist in the electron microscopy core facility completed her PhD degree in "Ultrastructure and molecular abnormalities in cilia of the respiratory system leading to primary ciliary dyskinesia in Omani patients", from the College of Science, SQU in July 2023.
- ✓ **Dr Samira Al Rawahi**, Biomedical Scientist in main histology completed her PhD degree in "Motivational factors, job satisfaction and job stress among Omani medical laboratory scientists" from Karolinska Institute (Medical College), Sweden.

EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The department has been actively engaged in the College's preparation for re-accreditation of the M.D. program. The department faculty actively undertook curriculum mapping revision and updating of the Pathology content for the Phase II modules delivered in fall and senior clerkship lab rotation. The department also started working on developing a master's degree program jointly with the Department of Biomedical Science.

Teaching Programs

Undergraduate Programs:

❖ M.D. Curriculum (Phase II):

The Department has contributed extensively to the development and delivery of various systems modules which are part of the medical curriculum. The Department faculty partakes in teaching in the following courses: Response to Infection & Pathobiology, and systems modules including Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Uro-reproductive, Alimentary, Locomotor, Endocrine,

Human Nervous System and Integrated Modules I, II and III and coordination of the Locomotor module and Integrated module III. In 2023, the department started conducting a major curriculum review and mapping of the teaching material in all system-based courses. The Department also contributes significantly to the undergraduate research module. Many faculty members and biomedical scientists in the Department either supervise or co-supervise at least one or two students.

❖ Intercalated Phase Program:

The Department offers a Histopathology practicum to students of the intercalated course who are to graduate with a Bachelor's in Health Science. This course introduces students to basic lab techniques and grossing of simple surgical specimens.

❖ M.D. Curriculum (Phase III):

Six batches of Senior Clerkship students undergo laboratory rotations in pathology to orient them to basic and advanced laboratory techniques so as to improve their clinico-pathological correlation in an integrated format. Students are given lectures covering lab principles of histopathology, cytopathology, immunohistochemistry, and electron microscopy and have a one-day lab visit. The course content has also undergone major revision introducing tutorial sessions wherein students go through clinical scenarios and correlate these with pathology findings in order to reach a diagnosis.

❖ B.Sc. Biomedical Science Program:

Pathology academic and clinical faculty contribute to the teaching and coordination of courses for undergraduate students of the Biomedical Science program. The courses include Biology of Cancer and Clinical Correlations modules. Senior biomedical scientists also undertake didactic teaching and laboratory training in histopathology, cytology, and electron microscopy in the other modules. Students undergo an internship in histopathology in the summer semester before graduating.

Postgraduate Program:

***** OMSB Residency Programs:

The Pathology Department is one of the major training sites for the Anatomical Pathology Residency program. Faculty also hold several leadership roles in the administration of the program including Associate Program Director, chair of the research subcommittee, and chair of the examination committee. In addition, faculty members are heavily engaged in training Residents of other programs who rotate in the department, namely dermatology, hematopathology, and obstetrics and gynecology. Several faculty members also supervise several OMSB resident's research projects some of which secured funding as part of the graduate research grant scheme.

CLINICAL & DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

The Department continues to witness an increase in surgical pathology, cytology, and electron microscopy diagnostic specimens in parallel with expanding clinical subspecialties. Currently, the majority of referral cases from other hospitals are for renal pathology and some neuropathology. There is also a demand for opinions on biopsies of skin, lymph nodes, and bone marrow. The Department remains the only health institution in the country offering electron microscopic evaluation of tissues. The Electron Microscopy Unit received 416 diagnostic samples from different hospitals in the country including ciliary samples, blood, renal, muscle and nerve, conjunctiva, and lung.

The SQUH Pathology Laboratory ensures quality standards by conducting peer reviews and participation in both diagnostic and technical external quality assurance modules in anatomic pathology and cytopathology. With the opening of the SQCCRC, there has been a significant increase in the number of multidisciplinary team meetings that have been scheduled according to subspecialty. The department contributes to 5-6 multidisciplinary team meetings weekly (GI, rare tumours, thorax and head and neck, gyne, urology, and hematopathology) plus a monthly renal MDT, educational H&N meeting and pediatric GI MDT, and less frequently dermatopathology MDTs.

> Rare / Interesting Diagnostic Cases:

As a recognized major referral center for challenging cases, the department received many requests to perform specialized diagnostic tests on various samples.

With the return of highly specialized surgeons from their training, the department has also witnessed an increase in complex resections particularly in neurosurgery, head and neck, and bone and soft tissue.

Furthermore, the department continued to receive many skin biopsies and renal biopsies from other institutes around the country.

In 2023, the department sent 3 samples abroad for expert opinion and 32 for molecular testing.

➤ New Equipments/ Devices:

In order to ensure the smooth running of the diagnostic work and the teaching mission, the department received a good number of equipment in 2023 as indicated in the table.

Equipment/ Device	Lab
Cassette Marker (Printer) Epredia	Reception - Histopathology
Cassette Marker (Printer- Laser- Epredi)	Reception - Histopathology
Ventana Special Stain	Main lab – Histology
Ventana Bench Mark (2 machines)	IHC

Hologic Thin prep	Cytology
Cytology Auto-stainer	Cytology
Rotary Microtomes (2) Epredia	Histology
Ultramicrotome - leica	Electron Microscopy
Ultramicrotome - RMC	Electron Microscopy

> New procedures:

Synovial Fluid for Crystal in Cytology:

In response to increasing clinical demand, the department introduced the service of rapid reporting of fresh synovial fluids for crystals, which included the preparation of a standard operating procedure and a lab manual for this.

! Immunohistochemistry:

The department has significantly expanded its battery of immunohistochemical and molecular stains available. This is in order to keep up to date with the latest antibodies and to serve our ever-increasing subspecialty clinical departments, which impacts directly patient care both in terms of diagnosis and management. This also negated the need to send samples abroad for specific markers. A total of 35 new markers have been added, making a total of 300 markers including immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence, and molecular. All of these new markers have either been validated or are currently undergoing the process of validation.

STAT-3	TAG-72
BRAF-V600E	TDP-43
Carbonic Anhydrase 1X	TFE-3
CD33	Tpit (TBX19)
CD71	PTEN
CD123	uPAR
DLL-3	CD13
Fumarate Hydratase	Fascin
Histone-H3K27ME-3	P-27
KRAS	LMO
Langerin/CD207	OCT-4/3
MITF	PAN-TRK
PAX-2	SALL-4
PHOX2B	SDH-B
ROS-1	SATB-2
MUC-6	NGFR
NKX3	ERCC-1
ERG	

Training programs

- ✓ Fatma Al-Ghafri- a Biomedical Scientist from the electron microscopy core facility joined the Master's program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the COM & HS, SQU starting September 2023.
- ✓ Maryam Al Badi a Biomedical Scientist from the main histology joined the Master's program in Quality in Analytic Labs. Portugal starting October 2023.

OMSB Activities:

The total number of rotating Anatomical Pathology residents in 2023 is as follows:

Duration	January to August 2023	September to December 2023
Number of rotating	25	16
residents		
GRAND TOTAL	4	1

Total Number of rotating residents from other specialties in 2023 as follows:

OMSB Programs	Number of residents
Hematopathology	2
OB & GYN	5
Dermatology	21
GRAND TOTAL	28

Pathology Diagnostic Statistics

❖ The total Number of Diagnostic Samples received and the number of tests done on these samples in 2023 are as follows:

Lab	Total Requests	Total Tests
Histopathology	8640	33423
Cytology	2712	5513

Immunohistochemistry	2714	12556
Electron Microscopy	416	1552
GRAND TOTAL	14482	53044

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

2023 Funded Research Projects:

1. Tumor Testing to Identify Lynch Syndrome in Young Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Patients at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

Code: IG/MED/PATH/23/01

Principal Investigator: Dr. Asmaa Al Shehhi

2. Retrospective analysis of clinicopathological and development of radiomics characteristics of sarcomas from a single institution in Oman

Code: IG/MED/PATH/23/02

Principal Investigator: Dr. Suad Al Jahdhami

List of Research Projects Approved by the Medical Ethics Research Committee:

- 1. Significance of PD-L1 immunohistochemical expression in squamous epithelial (pre) neoplastic lesions of the uterine cervix. (MREC #2998). Principal Investigator: **Dr. Mohammad Arafa.**
- 2. Immunohistochemical study of PD-L1 expression in molar pregnancies. (MREC#2999). Principal investigator: **Dr. Mohammad Arafa.**
- 3. Clinico-pathological study of endometrial polyps; SQUH five years' experience. (MREC#3011). Principal investigator: **Dr. Mohammad Arafa.**
- 4. Tumour Testing to Identify Lynch Syndrome in Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Patients at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. (MREC #3042). Principal investigator: **Dr. Asmaa Al Shehhi.**
- 5. Ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration from solid thyroid nodules: factors that affect the quality of the sample. (MREC #3044). Principal investigator: **Dr.Asmaa Al Shehhi.**

- 6. Prevalence of celiac disease at SQUH. (MREC #3055). Principal investigator: **Dr. Abdelhadi Shebl.**
- 7. Prevalence of Lymphocytic thyroiditis at SQUH. (MREC #3056). Principal investigator: **Dr. Abdelhadi Shebl.**
- 8. Immunohistochemistry and Molecular Assessment of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease in Oman. (MREC#3069). Principal investigator: **Ms. Shadya Al-Sinawi.**
- 9. Development of deep learning-based image analysis model for thyroid papillary carcinoma diagnosis- A retrospective single centre study. (MREC #3160). Principal investigator: **Dr. Asim Qureshi.**
- 10. The effect of omitting acetone fixation from renal biopsies during modified direct immunofluorescence technique. (MREC #3180). Principal investigator: **Dr. Marwa Al Riyami.**
- 11. Diagnostic utility of image-based deep learning in the clinicopathological and radiological evaluation of prostatic lesions. (MREC #3185). Principal investigator: **Dr. Asim Qureshi.**

Conference Papers

- 1. **Radiya Al Ajmi**, Hanan Al-Shamly, Moza Al Kalbani2, Saria Bala, Ivana Markovic. Abstract and poster presentation in the 34th Annual Congress of the International Academy of Pathology Arab Division (Qatar, Doha) from 29th November to 3rd December 2023. Perivascular epithelioid cell tumor (PEComa) of the uterus. 2023.
- 2. Yaqeen AL-ZADJALI, Afrah Al-Rashdi, Samya Al-Husaini, Suaad Al-Badi, Hajer Al-Badi, and Mohammad Arafa. The 13th Belgian Week of Pathology (BWP), Brussels (October 20-21, 2023). Clinico-pathological features of breast carcinoma patients with immunohistochemical equivocal HER-2.
- 3. **Mohammad ARAFA.** The 13th Belgian Week of Pathology (BWP), Brussels (October 20-21, 2023). Expression of PD-L1 in ovarian surface epithelial tumors; A TMA study with clinico-pathological correlation.
- 4. **Marwa Al Riyami,** Hamdan Al Bulushi: Frequency of glomerular diseases post renal transplantation: a single center experience. Poster presentation at the 5th International Renal Pathology Society Conference, Zagreb 17th to 20th May 2023.

Undergraduate Thesis Supervision:

Student name: Noor Mohammed Salim Al Qasmi

Qualification level: Undergraduate

Title: Histopathological study of chorioamnionitis and its relation

with the clinical parameters; five years' experience of

SQUH

Supervisor: Dr. Mohammad Arafa

Date of completion: 2023

Collaborative research projects:

- ➤ The Electron Microscopy Unit received a total of 480 research samples for different applications. EM unit contributed significantly to several research projects both within and outside SQU with the following researchers:
 - 1. Prof. Imad Adin from the College of Science, Physics, Studying some Materials (FTEM).
 - 2. Dr. Ahmed Al Alawi from the College of Agriculture, studying Bacteria (SEM).
 - 3. Dr. Naser Al Habsi from the College of Agriculture, studying Fungus (SEM).
 - 4. Dr. Danial from the College of Agriculture, studying Biochar samples (SEM).
 - 5. Dr. Rao from COMHS, Anatomy, studying Autophagy in Sickle placenta samples (TEM).
 - 6. Dr. Afsal from the College of Science, Physics, Studying some Materials (FTEM).
 - 7. Prof.Osama Abu Zaid, from the College of Science Studying Seeds (SEM).
 - 8. Prof. F. Suleiman from the College of Science, Chemistry, Studying some Materials (FTEM).
 - 9. Dr. Nasra Al Maskri from the College of Engineering is studying Nacre sample (FTEM).
 - 10. Dr. Gilha from the College of Agriculture, studying fish (SEM).
 - 11. Dr. Velazahahan from the College of Agriculture, studying Fungus (SEM).
 - 12. Prof. Abdullah Al Sadi from the College of Agriculture, studying Aurebasidium
 - 13. Dr. Issa Al Amri from the University of Nizwa (TEM).
 - 14. Dr. Shadia Al Bahlani, from the Biomedical Science department, studying the effect of Omani moringa on gastric cancer cells (TEM&SEM).

- ➤ The Main Histology section received a total of 500 research samples for different applications. The Main Histology Lab contributed significantly to several research projects both within and outside SQU with the following researchers:
 - 1- Dr. Srinivasa Rao from the Human & Clinical Anatomy Department, CoM&HS, SOU.
 - 2- Prof. Aly Abdel Rahman from Pharmacology Department CoM&HS, SQU.
 - 3- Dr. Khurshid Alam from CoM&HS, SQU.
 - 4- Dr. Issa Al Amri from the University of Nizwa.
 - 5- Dr. Micheal Bewy from the College of Science, SQU.
 - 6- Dr. Nasar Al Wahaibi from the Biomedical Science Department, CoM&HS, SQU.
- ➤ The Immunohistochemistry section received research samples for different applications. The Immunohistochemistry section contributed significantly to several research projects with the following researchers:
 - 1- Prof. Mohamed Mabruk: From Department of Allied Health Sciences, (Determination of Telomerase and Mismatch Repair Proteins in Colorectal Cancer Tissue Samples from Omani Patients).
 - 2- Dr. Jamal Al-Subahi: From College of Agriculture and Marine Sciences, (A study on the effect of *Paganum harmala*Plant Extract on Glycemic control in Murine Model of Diabetes Mellitus (Double Stain Glucagon-Insulin).
 - 3- Dr. Vaidyanathan Gowri, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, (Placental histopathology finding in pregnant women infected with COVID-19).
 - 4- Dr. Sirin Adham: From College of Science, Biology Department, (Determine the Molecular basis of Breast Cancer in Omani Population).
 - 5- Dr. Fahad Al-Zadjali: From the Department of Biochemistry, (The effect of Trehalose on Nephropathy in Animal Model of Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis).
 - 6- Dr. Hussein Abdellatif: From Human and Clinical Anatomy Department, (In Vivo effect of HDAC Inhibitor Trichostatin-A on Hepatic Stellate and Oval cells-Immunohistochemistry study)
 - 7- Dr. Shadia Al-Bahlani: From Department of Allied Health Sciences, (Chemoresistance Breast cancer. The role of E2F1 activation and its modulation by Akt pathway).
 - 8- Dr. Amira Al-Kharusi: From Physiology Department, (Role of SOCS6 in tumorigenesis in Ovarian Cancer).

Community Initiative

Symposiums:

➤ The Pathology Department organized a 2-day Pathology Symposium covering the topics of Thyroid, Skin, and Lab Management. This symposium was held on the 12th and 13th of March 2023 at Al Fahm stage, SQU Cultural Center.

Schools Visits:

- Musandum governorate school (Female) visited the EM unit on 12/11/2023.
- Musandam governorate schools (Male) visited the EM unit on 15/11/2023.
- Zaid bin Al Khattab School (Ibri) visited the EM unit on 16/11/2023.
- Jabal Shams School visited the EM unit on 28/11/2023.
- Toam School visited the EM unit on 30/11/2023.

❖ International Biomedical Science Day:

> Ms. Marwa Al Shukri and Mr. Sami Al Badi contributed to organizing the BMS day that was held on 20th March 2023 and titled "عالم الطب الخفى".

❖ Donor 1000 event:

➤ Ms. Marwa Al Shukri contributed to supervising the (Donor1000) students team under the community service committee in the College of Medicine during the year 2023.

Workshops:

- ➤ Best Practices on Pre-analytical in Pathology Workshop was conducted on 28th February 2023 Annex building 2214 Invited speaker from Rouch Company.
- Workplace Based Assessment Tools Workshop was presented by Najat Al Dairi on 4th July 2023.

Offering Services Outside SQU:

The department offered diagnostic and technical services for various health institutions outside SQUH:

Institution	Total Requests
Ministry of Health (Hospitals, polyclinics, health centers)	295
Armed Forces Hospital	62

Diwan of Royal Court Hospital	2
SQCCCRC	6
Private Health Institutions	30
GRAND TOTAL REQUESTS	395

➤ Electron Microscopy Unit collaborated with Nizwa University in research titled (Effect of KBA, QRN, FRD in the prevention of diabetes mellitus type 2 induced abnormal reproductive tissues in mice).

Keynote / Invited Talks / Guest Speaker:

- ➤ Ms. Najat Al Dairi contributed with an oral presentation at the "44th European Cytology Congress, Hungary" Conference 1st 4th October 2023. Topic "Cytohistology correlation of abnormal urine cytology at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital"
- ➤ **Dr. Asim Qureshi** contributed with an oral presentation at the annual joint meeting, of PAP Pakistan Association of Pathologists and Histopathology Society of Pakistan on 18th November 2023. Topic: "Rare lesions, unusual locations; A conundrum of cases."
- ➤ **Dr. Kawther Al Adawi** was a Keynote speaker at the 3rd Middle East Conference on Electron Microscopy- Bahrain on 14th December 2023. Title: "The Missing Beat".
- ➤ Ms. Marwa Al Shukri contributed with an oral presentation at the 3rd Middle East conference on Electron Microscopy- Bahrain on 14th December 2023. Title: "Electron-Dense Structures in Human Platelets: Are They the True Dense Granules?"
- ➤ Mr. Abdurrahman Al Nabhani contributed with an oral presentation at the 3rd Middle East conference on Electron Microscopy- Bahrain on 14th December 2023. Title: "The Role of High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope in the Applications of Nanotechnology.

Department of Physiology



Message from the Head of the Department

The Department of Physiology has two divisions: Basic Physiology and Clinical Physiology located in the College of Medicine & Health Sciences (COMHS) and the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH), respectively. The Department teaches basic and clinical physiology and also familiarizes medical students with various clinical physiological procedures. Physiology teaching is coordinated with other basic science departments in an integrated and multidisciplinary fashion. The curriculum is further fortified by live models as well as simulated basic and clinical case demonstrations at different levels of medical training. Clinical students are taught hands-on the diagnostic skills of the most common clinical measurements that they would like to encounter after graduation. The Department participates in postgraduate teaching and offers M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs.

The Department of Clinical Physiology at the Hospital (CPH) provides advanced clinical diagnostic services for SQUH and also for the whole of Oman. It is the only Department of its kind in the country where such procedures are carried out under one roof with fully digital state-of-the-art equipment's, good quality assurance and with a cost-effective approach.

The Department lays major emphasis on research into both basic and clinical cardiovascular, sleep and metabolic disorders. It has a strong collaboration with other departments interested in the same field and internationally with universities and institutes conducting similar research. Research on other specialties such as neuro and gastro-physiology is also actively running in the department. Technical and medical staff members receive regular training and are audited to meet international standards.

STAFF

Head of Department

Mohammed Al-Abri, Professor

Deputy Head of Department

Talal Al- Mashaikhi, Consultant

Faculty

Sulayma Al Barwani, Professor

Khamis Al-Hashmi, Associate Professor/ Asst.Dean for Clinical Affairs

Amira Al-Kharusi, Assistant Professor/ Asst.Dean for Postgraduate Studies and Recearch

Hajar Al-Rajaibi, Assistant Professor

Hussein Sakr, Assistant Professor

Majid Al Salmani, Assistant Professor

Sami Al-Rawas, Consultant

Deepali Jaju, Senior Specialist

Superintendents

Mariam Al-Hooti, Superintendent & Senior Technologist (Hospital)

Hajer Ba-Omar, Superintendent (College)

Biomedical Scientists

Jamila Al-Kalbani, Senior Biomedical Scientist (Hospital)

Nasra Al-Sinawi, Senior Biomedical Scientist (Hospital)

Majeda Al-Raisi, Senior Biomedical Scientist Hospital)

Intisar Mohammed Al Abri, Senior Biomedical Scientist (Hospital)

Sultan Al-Siyabi, Research Assistant (College)

Dr Isehaq Al Hussaini, Biomedical Scientist (College)

Farid Al Dhuhli, Biomedical Scientist (College)

Intisar Al-Lawati, Biomedical Scientist (College)

Support Staff

Nada Al Barwani, Coordinator (Hospital)

Iman Al Maskari, Medical Coordinator (Hospital)

Safiya Al Hinai Coordinator (College)

In addition, there are 34 technicians (of which 28 are Omanis) in the support staff team working in the Cardiology, Pulmonology, Neurophysiology and Sleep Disorders laboratories.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2023

Several research projects were carried out in physiology and clinical physiology in 2023 in collaboration with other departments. Cardiovascular research is the high point of departmental research expertise and activity. It spans topics from membrane and vascular physiology to genetics and clinical research. Research on sleep physiology and disorders and its association with other

metabolic disorders is also one of the active research areas of the Department. Research in molecular biology and cell culture is one of the research areas that rapidly growing in the department.

Apart from the addition of new diagnostic procedures, the number of existing clinical tests increased in all specialties, with some showing a substantial increase. Medical research also increased and results from various projects were published.

TEACHING PROGRAMMES

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

PHASE I AND II PROGRAMMES

The Department has contributed extensively to the development and delivery of various systems modules which have been incorporated into the medical curriculum. The Department of Physiology offers one departmental course and makes major contributions to the following courses: Structure-Function Relationship; Alimentary System; Uro-reproductive System; Cardiovascular System; Respiratory System; Human Nervous System; Endocrine System; Locomotor System; and the Integrated Modules I, II and III. The Department also teaches the following courses in the Nursing degree programme: Anatomy & Physiology I & II. The Integrated Module course is a problem-based course shared with all clinical departments. Five academic staff of the department are involved as module coordinators.

Most of the above courses have relevant clinical applications. Case presentations and the appropriate clinical procedures are taught to the students during these courses and elaborated upon during the clinical years. Students are evaluated in their theoretical and practical components as well as in their basic clinical skills.

The Department participated significantly in the research module. Almost all faculty members in the Department supervise at least one or two students. They provide the required training and guide them during the writing of the project report.

INTERCALATED PHASE PROGRAMME

The department is involved in teaching of the practicum 1 and 2 courses.

PHASE III CLINICAL PROGRAMME

In the Phase III clinical programme, the Department is involved in the teaching of the Preclerkship, Junior Clerkship and Senior Clerkship programmes.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

The Department offers M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes. In the postgraduate programme, the Department offers the following four courses: Cellular Physiology, Control of Human Circulation, Neuron to Behaviour and Exercise Physiology. During 2015 to 2017, the Department had 2 students registered for an MSc degree. Two PhD students has completed their PhD degree.

Training Courses & CME Activities

Regular in-house training is conducted for newly recruited technicians. As a part of this course, the technicians attend the Anatomy & Physiology course for nursing students when required. Continuing medical education (CME) sessions are held on a monthly basis. Support staff members are all actively involved in the training, teaching and research activities of the Department in both the COMHS and SQUH programmes.

In-house training programmes are provided to the CPH technologists based on their speciality and their administrative responsibility—according to the courses offered by the SQUH Directorate of Training & CPD.

CLINICAL & DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Diagnostic services offered in CPH cover most of the spectrum of Neurophysiology, Cardiology, Pulmonology, Sleep medicine and other discrete tests. All CPH diagnostic services are fully functional to date. Many of the diagnostic areas have further improved their services.

A newly added electroencephalography (EEG) monitoring system long-term monitoring EEG (LTM) system are functioning to its full capacity. LTM services have been improved further. The VNS, vagal nerve stimulation was started for pharmaco-resistant non-operable epilepsy cases and it is functioning well. New pulmonary function testing equipment was received in 2013, also covering diffusion function, and continued to function to its fullest capacity in 2018 for adult and paediatric patients. The Audiometry Unit was renovated in 2014. It includes the brainstem evoked response audiometry (BERA) which is an objective neurophysiological method for the evaluation of the hearing threshold and diagnosing retro cochlear lesions in adults and paediatrics. The implementation of the policy of reconfirming the referral reasons, established in 2012, also continued in 2017.

CPH completed establishing "Cardio Pulmonary Exercise Test" in 2016 and is used to estimate VO_{2max} and cardio-pulmonary fitness in patients with cardiac and pulmonary diseases.

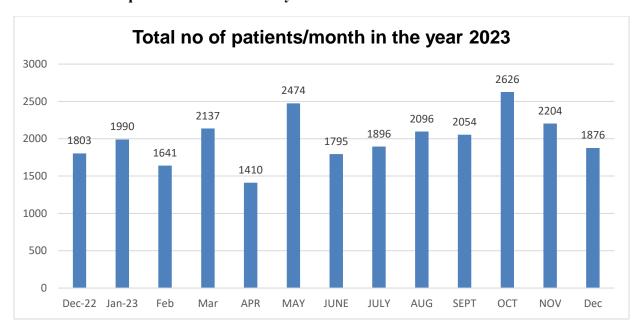
establish CPH pulmonary its "Methacholine section is extending services to hypersensitivity Challenge Test" to look for bronchial in the asthmatic patients. The equipment and protocol are set and in 2018, many patients were investigated for bronchial hypersensitivity.

Paediatric Sleep clinic for assessment of Paediatric patients with sleep disorders was established in Clinical Physiology.

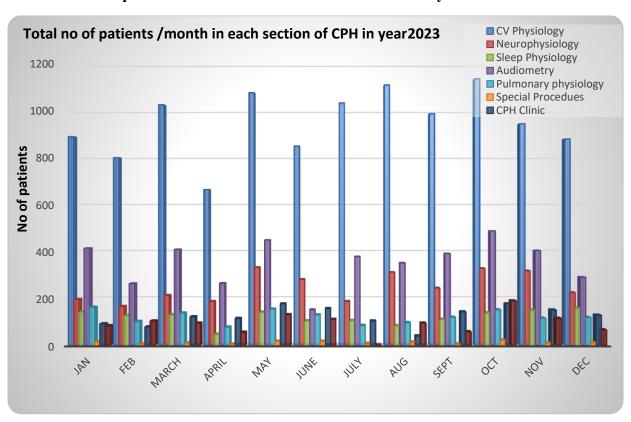
The CPH has also started two new clinics. Botox clinic is started under Neurology section for patients with dystonia and patients with movement disorders. The Electrophysiology clinic is started for patients with cardiac arrhythmias and patients with pacemakers.

The total number of patients attending CPH clinics during the year 2023 was **24199**.

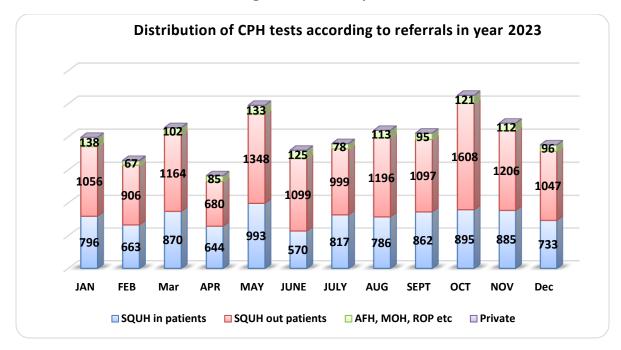
Total number of patients/months in the year 2023



Total number of patients/months in each section of CPH in the year 2023



Distribution of CPH tests according to referrals in year 2023



RESEARCH

Research Projects:

- 1. Awareness and knowledge of physical activity guidelines among SQU students/2 students. Dr Hajar Al Rajaibi.
- 2. Role of Transient Receptor Potential Vanilloid 4 (TRPV4) Channel in Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Progression and Calcification. Dr Isehaq Al Huseini.
- 3. How Human Cytomegalovirus Infection Induces the Prolactin system in Ovarian Cancer. Dr Amira Al Kharusi. Physiology.

Non- funded projects

- 1. Acceptance and Compliance of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure in Patients with Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Dr. Mohammed Al-Abri. Physiology & Clinical Physiology, SQU
- 2. Characteristics of COVID-19 disease in patient suffering from obstructive sleep apnea.
- Dr. Mohammed Al-Abri. Physiology & Clinical Physiology, SQU.
- 3. Prevalence of tinnitus and equilibrium disorders among COVID-19 patients at SQUH. Dr. Deepali Jaju. Physiology & Clinical Physiology, SQUH.
- 4. Late respiratory symptoms in adult patients who have recovered from COVID-19 treated at SQUH. Dr. Deepali Jaju. Physiology & Clinical Physiology, SQUH.
- 5. Vagal Nerve Stimulation. Dr. Talal Almashaikhi. Physiology & Clinical Physiology, SQUH.

Virtual presentations

- 1. **Dr. Mohammed Al Abri**. Update of Sleep Medicine in Oman (focusing on sleep patterns among Omani populations) World sleep day 19th March 2021, middle east chapter, Egypt **Presenter.**
- 2. **Dr. Mohammed Al Abri**. Several Online meetings and presentations to discuss Asian accreditation of sleep physicians and technologists (published 2021).
- 3. **Dr. Mohammed Al Abri.** Symposium on Sleep Patterns and Metabolic Risk (3rd Asian society of Sleep Medicine Congress) Beijing, China, 14-17 May 2021 (hypred congress with virtual presentations for international speakers only. **Organizer and Chair a Session.**

Published Book chapter:

1. Amira Alkharusi. "Pathological correlates to prolactin and growth hormone". (Ref. no.2021/BP/10965D) is accepted for publication as a book chapter in the following book: Recent Research Advances in Biology (International Book).

Department of Radiology and Molecular Imaging



1. Overview of Department

The Department of Radiology offers specialised diagnostic services which include Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Vascular & Interventional Radiology, Nuclear Medicine (NM), Computed Tomography (CT), and Ultrasound (US). Mammography, and Medical Physics, as well as routine radiological imaging.

The Department is fully digitised with the PACS (Picture and Archiving Communication System) and the Radiology Information System (RIS). The current PACS/RIS system is - FujiFilm PACS/RIS: Synapse - which had been implemented in March 2020.

The department conducted **97,995** studies this year in various sections. This number does not include the services offered by the Medical Physics Section to various Departments and Colleges of SQU as well as the community at large.

Research, teaching and training at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels involve all members of faculty, from both college and hospital staff, who are also involved in the training of Radiographers. Radiology technologists are also involved in the teaching of radiographers from the College of Health Sciences, from armed forces hospital, and other hospitals.

The department is one of the major training sites for OMSB Radiology Residents, which was started in 2005. The department trained 41 residents in 2023. In addition, we are training about 30 residents a year from other Clinical Services who rotate through the Radiology Department. We are actively involved in the teaching of Medical Students as per the curriculum.

The Department is divided administratively into seven sections, each with its own supervisor: (1) General Radiology; (2) Mammography; (3) Ultrasound (US) (both general ultrasound and obstetric and gynecology ultrasounds); (4) CT; (5) MRI; (6) Vascular & Interventional Radiology; and (7) Nuclear Medicine.

Services in the Department

GENERAL RADIOLOGY

This section includes general radiography and fluoroscopy. The general radiography service is available during work hours for outpatients and 24/7 for inpatient and emergency. It is one of the busiest sections in the department. This section is also responsible for performing a dedicated fluoroscopic examination of the upper and lower GI tract and genitourinary system. This section has played an important role during the covid-19 pandemic, in which most suspected and infected patients underwent chest radiographs. Departmental policies were developed to minimise infection transmission to staff during examination, especially in the emergency department and ICU. The Department performed **48,596** plain radiograph examinations in 2023.

MAMMOGRAPHY

The clinical mission of the Mammography Service is to provide a comprehensive, individually tailored evaluation for the early detection and diagnosis of breast diseases. The service offers state-of-the-art dedicated breast imaging modalities which include full field digital mammography and dedicated breast ultrasound. The other services include stereotactic-guided biopsy and stereotactic hook wire localisations. Ultrasound-guided interventional procedures, such as ultrasound-guided biopsies, hook wire localisations, fine-needle aspiration cytology, and clip placements, are some of the other procedures that are also provided.

However, the role of the service is reduced to a screening programmeme primarily after the transfer of breast surgery services to the SQCCCRC.

The Department performed **530** plain breast imaging examinations in 2023.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE:

The Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Section has state-of-the-art PET/CT machine. The machine serves primarily cancer patients, but also performs a cardiac and neurology PET/CT scan. It is also used for evaluation of patients with a fever of unknown origin and patients who are suspected to have malignancy without obvious localised tumour-related symptoms. In 2023, we have performed **659** PET/CT procedures.

The Department has a hybrid single photon emission tomography and computerised tomography 16 slices (SPECT/CT). It has improved the accuracy of diagnosis and decreased examination time

in many types of studies such as myocardial perfusion for the detection of Coronary Arteries Disease. The section performed **3,978** procedures in 2023.

There are four rooms for radionuclide therapy in which patients with thyroid cancer and thyrotoxicosis can be treated with radioactive iodine. The department is the only centre in the country providing iodine therapy to paediatric patients with thyroid cancer. In 2023, 29 thyrotoxicosis procedures and 4 cancer thyroid procedures were performed.

VASCULAR & INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

The goal of the Interventional Radiology Section is to provide outstanding patient care, education, and research. The Interventional Radiology Section has state-of-the-art Angiography suite (the Philips Clarity System FD 20/20).

The Section provides service lines that include interventional oncology, peripheral vascular disease, trauma embolisation, GIT embolisation, drainage, biopsies, and transplant interventions. In addition, we are actively involved in several research projects.

Diagnostic and interventional vascular procedures performed are the following:

- Aortic, pulmonary, mesenteric and peripheral arteriography
- Aortic and peripheral stent-graft placement
- Arterial and venous angioplasty and stenting
- Arterial and Venous Thrombolysis and Thrombectomy
- Arterial and venous embolisation
- Treatment of arterial malformations
- Venous ablation and management of venous insufficiency
- Transarterial liver-directed therapy including radiotherapy, bland therapy, chemotherapy, drug-eluting beads
- Uterine artery (fibroid) embolisation
- Varicocele embolisation
- Venous sampling of endothelial tumour
- Vena cava filter placement
- Foreign Body Retrieval
- Management of dialysm access
- Venous access and port placement

Additionally, perform all diagnostic and interventional percutaneous non-vescular procedures, such as

- All thoracoabdominal, hepatobiliary, renal, gastrointestinal, transplant organ, and soft tissue drainages, dilations, and stents
- Renal and hepatic biopsy and ablations
- Transhepatic cholangiogram
- Biliary stenting
- Nephrostomy
- Ureteral stenting

• Gastrostomy and gastroenterostomy

The Vascular & Interventional Radiology Section has admission privileges in the Day Care Unit, two days a week. The total number of procedures in 2023 is **1875**.

ULTRASOUND

The ultrasound section has been a very busy section. A total of **18,462** ultrasound examinations were performed in the Department in 2023. Examinations include breast ultrasounds that are performed in the Mammography Section, ultrasound-guided interventional procedures, and portable ultrasound examinations.

Currently, the Sonography Section has 12 sonographers, three of which are dedicated to ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology.

The Section performs certain specialised Ultrasound and Doppler examinations which include transcranial Doppler imaging (TCDI), shear wave velocity, and elasticity imaging of the liver.

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY:

The department has two CT scanners. The Section is considered the work horse of the cross-sectional imaging. The Section performed 12,321 CT scan examinations in 2023. This Section supports the known busy Trauma services in the Hospital, in addition to the other medical and surgical services (Adults and Pediatrics). The section offers round the clock service for inpatients and emergency department.

The Section performed some specialized examination such as CT Coronary angiography, CT peripheral angiography and CT perfusion of the brain, which has reduced the number of patients undergoing invasive conventional diagnostic angiography. CT colonography is also provided by the department.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING:

The department has two MRI machines; a state-of-the-art 3 Tesla MRI machine (Vida, Siemens) in addition to the 1.5 Tesla MRI scanner (Aera, Siemens) which was installed in 2012 with an updated platform to the latest available by Siemens to improve quality of the service provided by the department. Full range of MRI examinations are performed including certain specialised exams such as breast magnetic resonance imaging, perfusion studies, contrast-enhanced and noncontrast angiography and cardiac MRI. The Section has dedicated a day for paediatric examinations to be performed under general anaesthesia in collaboration with the Anaesthesia Department. The Section has performed 7,264 MRI examinations in 2023.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The purpose of the quality management section is to ensure that policies and procedures are in place to optimise the performance and safety of equipment and personnel.

The quality management team will ensure the continuation of patient care and safety and will have indicators in place to monitor and document relevant processes and procedures which require improvement.

The quality management team is responsible for extracting statistics for the department and present them to the faculty. They are also the link between the department and the Directorate of Development and Quality.

MEDICAL PHYSICS:

Radiation Protection Service

The Radiation Protection Service (RPS) provides technical and consulting support to ensure that sources of ionising radiation and radiation- generating equipment are handled in a manner that complies with Oman regulations and relevant international safety standards. It has been operating since 1990 providing support services, advice and consultations to the University, other ministries, and private companies. The RPS constitutes the fully professional national resource service. It is well equipped with a wide range of measuring and calibration equipment for handling its main functions in medical and industrial uses of ionising radiation.

- 1. Radionuclide inventory. All radionuclides purchased by SQUH are first delivered to the Medical Physics Section for contamination survey and input into the radionuclide database. After this a trained nuclear medicine technician collects them.
- 2. Personal Dosimetry Service. The personal Dosimetry service provides monitoring of radiation doses received by radiation workers, to the university and external organisations (e.g. Ministry of Defence, Technical Inspection Services, and Muscat Private Hospital). The badges are worn for a calendar month and then read by the department TLD reader. The reported doses are maintained for all personnel. Personnel reports are sent to the employers to make them available to each radiation worker.
- 3. *Metrology*. Radiation measuring instruments should be calibrated annually, sometimes more frequently depending on the instrument and its use. The RPS provided calibration and maintenance services for portable radiation survey instruments (Mini900, Mini1000, Ludlum) used in SQU/SQUH, external organisations, and industries throughout the Sultanate (e.g. Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, PDO, Shaleem Petrolium, Midwesco, and Halliburton). Details about the calibration, the date of the performed calibration and the next due calibration are made available on every instrument.

- 4. X-ray Machine Quality Control (QC). Annually QC is performed by the Medical Physicists on x-ray equipment. Maintaining a QC programme ensures that image quality is maintained whilst reducing the radiation dose to patients and staff, as per ALARA Principles. The results are sent to the relevant departments. In the event of malfunction, a report is sent to the Biomedical Engineering department, where the necessary action is taken. The tests are repeated after repair. Information regarding the date of the performed QC and the next due QC are made available on every tested machine.
- 5. Ultrasound quality Control (QC). The SQUH ultrasound units undergo quality control tests on an annual basis. The tests can identify problems with the units before they cause diagnostic problems. The results are conveyed to the relevant departments. If a unit is found to be malfunctioning, a report is sent to the Biomedical Engineering department. The tests are repeated after repair. Information regarding the date of the performed QC and the next due QC is available on every machine.
- 6. Quality Assurance of nuclear medicine. 'Daily' measurements for image uniformity were performed by technical staff from the Nuclear Medicine Section. Medical doctors perform extensive 'Monthly' quality assurance tests.
 - Daily radiopharmaceutical quality control tests are performed by medical physicists, before radiopharmaceuticals are administered to patients, to test their labelling efficiency.
- 7. Acceptance testing and commissioning. The Medical Physicists performed 'Acceptance Testing' for newly purchased ultrasound, X-ray machines and SPECT/CT.
- 8. Radiation surveys. The Medical Physicists provided support to the Radiation Therapy Unit (Psychiatry Department) by conducting patient and room surveys, recording radiation doses taken from patients, and giving instructions to patients at discharge to protect relatives and the environment from unnecessary radiation exposure and contamination. They also regularly surveyed the public area above the delay tanks.
- 9. *Radioactive waste*. The liquid and solid radioactive waste from the nuclear medicine department and the I-131 therapy unit was regularly monitored and records are kept in the Medical Physics Section. When necessary the waste is stored in a designated storage area and disposed of by the medical physicists only when it becomes nonradioactive.
- 10. Gamma spectroscopy. Gamma spectroscopy is a very sensitive method for identifying the presence of radionuclides and measuring very small concentrations in samples. Measurements were routinely performed on irrigation water and sludge samples from the sewage treatment plant in SQU for radionuclides originating from the nuclear medicine department and particularly I-131 from the therapy unit. Certain foodstuffs from Omani Industrial plants for export to certain countries require a certificate stating that they are free from man-made radionuclides. Such certificates are supplied along with an analysis report for each sample analysed. Petroleum companies have been identifying naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) at several of their production facilities. Samples of water, oil, scale, and

sludge are regularly sent for gamma spectroscopy analysis by RPS to determine the appropriate method of disposal.

2. STAFF:

NO. OF STAFF	POSITION
3	Senior Consultants
5	Consultants
5	Senior Specialists
3	Specialist (A)
2	Medical Officer
2	Assistant Professor

2.1. Head of Department

Dr. Saleh Said Ali Baawain, Senior Consultant

2.2. Faculty

- 1. Dr. Saleh Baawain, Head, Senior Consultant
- 2. Dr. Homoud Al Dhuhli, Senior Consultant
- 3. Dr. Faisal Al Azri, Senior Consultant
- 4. Dr. Anupam Kakaria, Consultant
- 5. Dr. Sameer Raniga, Consultant
- 6. Dr. Alok Mittal, Senior Specialist
- 7. Dr. Yasser Mahfouz, Senior Specialist
- 8. Dr. Eiman Al Ajmi, Consultant
- 9. Dr. Basit Salam, Consultant
- 10. Dr. Zabah Muhammad Jawa, Consultant
- 11. Dr. Yassine Bushareb, Assistant Professor (College Staff)
- 12. Dr. Yarab Al Bulushi, Consultant
- 13. Dr. Mirza Amanullah Beg, Senior Specialist
- 14. Dr. Asma Al Hatmi, Senior Specialist (A)
- 15. Dr. Ahmed Al Lawati, Senior Specialist (A)
- 16. Dr. Hafiz Faizan Nadeem, Specialist (A)
- 17. Dr. Ameen Kamona, Medical Officer
- 18. Dr. Faiza Al Hajri, Medical Officer
- 19. Dr. Amna Al Jabri, Assistant Professor (College Staff)

2.2. Technical Staff

- 1. Abdullah Al Siyabi, Senior Technologist (A), Departmental Superintendent
- 2. Ahmed Al Shuhaimy, Quality Management In-Charge

- 3. Mahmood Al-Abri, Senior Technologist
- 4. Jamal Al Rubaiey, Senior Technologist
- 5. Ahmed Al Anqoodi, Senior Technologist
- 6. Manuel Gaerlan, Chief Technologist (B)
- 7. Faiza Al-Salmi, Chief Senior Technologist
- 8. Aziza Al-Jabri, Chief Senior Technologist
- 9. Mohammed Al-Sagri, Senior Technologist (A)
- 10. Sultan Al Naamani, Senior Technologist (A)
- 11. Hamoud Al Ghafri, Senior Technologist (A)
- 12. Aida Al-Rahbi, Senior Technologist (B)
- 13. Hanan Al Qassabi, Senior Technologist (B)
- 14. Khitam Al-Hijri, Senior Technologist (B)
- 15. Umaima Al Ajmi, Chief Senior Technologist
- 16. Lubna Al-Esry, Senior Technologist (B)
- 17. Mathew George, Technologist (A)
- 18. Kalthoom Al-Shesawi, Technologist (A)
- 19. Medussa Samar, Senior Technologist (B)
- 20. Maiden Magdael, Senior Technician
- 21. Loyal Tan, Senior Technologist (B)
- 22. Realyn Rosales, Senior Technologist
- 23. Arlene Selda, Senior Technologist
- 24. Ahmed Altraify, Technician (A)
- 25. Joji Mathew, Technologist (A)
- 26. Faisal Al Ghusaini, Technologist (B)
- 27. Shurooq Al Alawi, Technologist (A)
- 28. Lourdes Hernandez, Technologist (A)
- 29. Paul Martinez, Technologist (A)
- 30. Thomas Jefferson B., Senior Technologist (B)
- 31. Devid Devaraj, Technologist (A)
- 32. Moath Al Jabri, Technologist (B)
- 33. Mounira Hizi, Senior Technician
- 34. Alya Al Julandani, Technologist (B)
- 35. Nawal Al Kharusi, Senior Technologist (B)
- 36. Dalal Al Shabibi, Technologist (A)
- 37. Marjon Pakingan, Senior Technologist
- 38. Amani Mustafa Naif, Senior Technologist
- 39. Ruqaya Ambu Ali, Technologist (A)
- 40. Muna Al Muqbali, Technologist (A)
- 41. Muzna Al Harthy, Technologist (B)
- 42. Hizi Mounira, Senior Technologist
- 43. Tahani Nayli, Senior Technologist
- 44. Mohamed Anwar, Senior Technologist
- 45. Waleed Khasraoui, Senior Technician
- 46. Rania Chamma, Senior Technician (B)
- 47. Hadia Chelbi, Technician
- 48. Yassine Jemai, Senior Technologist

- 49. Elmoncef bouhdima, Technologist (A)
- 50. Mohammed Guerra, Technologist (A)
- 51. Maha Al Ashkhari, Technologist
- 52. Maryam Tahir, Technologist (A)
- 53. Salim Al Badri, Technologist (A)
- 54. Majda Al Jahdhami, Technician (A)
- 55. Marwa Al Rasheedi, Technician (A)
- 56. Erwin Maripoque, Radiographer (A)
- 57. Mohammed Habib, Technologist (A)
- 58. Mustafa Al Nasri, Nuclear Medicine Specialist (B)
- 59. Fatema Al Balushi, Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- 60. Maryam Al Maqbali, Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- 61. Yassine Baroumi, Senior Technologist
- 62. Amal Al Hajji, Medical Physics Technologist
- 63. Amal Al Maimani, Medical Physicist
- 64. Said Al Alawi, Radiopharmacist
- 65. Janine Israel, Technician (B)

2.4. Medical Physics Staff (College of Medicine):

- 1. Ibtissam Al Maskery, Medical Physicist
- 2. Amaal Al Rasbi, Medical Physicist
- 3. Hilal Al-Zeheimi, Medical Physicist
- 4. Mohammed Al Subhi, Coordinator (C)
- 5. Sudath Thawala, Medical Physicist (B)

2.5. Administrative and Clerical Staff:

- 1. Lamees Al Rashdi, Coordination, Follow-up & Archive Specialist (B)
- 2. Freshel Aglanao, Medical Coordinator
- 3. Nahrawan Al Shoukri, Medical Coordinator
- 4. Zulaikha Al Saidi, Coordination, Follow-up & Archive Specialist (C)
- 5. Mohammed Al Farai, Clerk
- 6. Khamis Al Farsi, Receptionist
- 7. Ali Al Salhi, Receptionist
- 8. Nasser Al Naamani, Clerk
- 9. Mariam Al Saaidi, Clerk
- 10. Said Al Rahbi, Medical Orderly
- 11. Fatma Al Kharboosi, Medical Orderly
- 12. Mutassim Al Husaini, Medical Orderly
- 13. Abdullah Al Masoudi, Medical Orderly
- 14. Mohammed Al Hinai, Medical Orderly
- 15. Soud Al Maharbi, Medical Orderly
- 16. Fatma Al Bahrani, Computer Technician
- 17. Sharifa Al Tobi, Coordination Specialist

2.6. Nursing Staff: (providing nursing care for Radiology patients)

1. Hassan Al Riyami, Radiology Nurse

- 2. Mahmood Al Maani, Radiology Nurse
- 3. Fatma Al Subhi, Radiology Nurse
- 4. Bindu V.P., Radiology Nurse
- 5. Minu Kurian, Radiology Nurse
- 6. Wafa Al-Bulushi, Radiology Nurse
- 7. Omer Al Saaidi, Radiology Nurse
- 8. Bini Prathapan, Radiology Nurse
- 9. Sheila Marnelli Cubero, Radiology Nurse
- 10. Caroline Pereda, Radiology Nurse
- 11. Wurood Al Kindi, Radiology Nurse
- 12. Safa Al Wahaibi, Radiology Nurse
- 13. Dahlia Florable, Radiology Nurse
- 14. Zuwaina Khalfan, Radiology Nurse
- 15. Bushra Al Badawi, Radiology Nurse
- 16. Bini Prathapan, Radiology Nurse
- 17. Soumia Sobranam, Radiology Nurse
- 18. Athira Vijay, Radiology Nurse
- 19. Fadhila Al Kalbani, Radiology Nurse
- 20. Anjitha C.P, Radiology Nurse
- 21. Saramma Varghese, Radiology Nurse
- 22. Anoop Kudoorathil, Radiology Nurse

3. TEACHING

3.1. *Undergraduates:*

3.1.1. Pre-Clinical Medical Students:

4th Year Medical Students:

ILS Anatomy Lecture Series

Approximately more than 100 4th year Students

Usually in Medical Lecture Theater / Lecture Theaters

Coordinates with Anatomy Department

Clinical Skills (Exam)

Approximately more than 100 fourth-year Students

3.1.2 Senior Clerkship Medical Students (Phase III Curriculum)

Radiology Rotation – Six groups of students rotate in the Radiology department every academic year. Each group spends two weeks in radiology. The students are divided between different training sites. There are about 20 students in each group and about five students rotate at SQUH in each week.

The students accompany the technologists, radiology residents and radiologists during the day. There are didactic lectures that cover radiation safety and major subspecialties in radiology. Each group has also two interactive radiological anatomy sessions and case-based presentations.

5.1.3. 7th year Medical Students:

Approximately 30 students: Obs/Gyn Lecture

5.1.4. Medical Physics

The Section offered the following:

Four Medical Physics Courses for College of Science physics students, monitoring in Medical Physics (12 students):

- o Ionizing Radiation (MEDP3000)
- o Non-ionizing Radiation (MEDP4001)
- o Radiobiology (MEDP4000)
- o Medical Physics Project A (MEDP4004)
- o Medical Physics Project B (MEDP4005)

3.2 *Post-Graduate*:

OMSB Radiology Residents:

41 Residents; 7-9 residents rotate through the Radiology Department every rotation (4 weeks/rotation) throughout the academic year in different modalities and subspecialties.

EXAMINATION WORKLOAD FOR THE YEAR 2023

Services	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
X-Ray	4,068	3,427	4,046	3,580	4,364	3,562	3,880	3,999	4,233	4,600	4,430	4,407	48,596
Fluoro	164	112	142	116	134	160	154	162	142	207	179	203	1,875
US	1,381	1,334	1,640	1,213	1,857	1,456	1,596	1,724	1,561	1,882	1,468	1,350	18,462
CT	1,002	901	994	819	1,142	971	999	1,104	1,069	1,195	1,042	1,083	12,321
PET / CT	56	66	77	32	8	33	26	76	56	72	86	71	659
Vascular & Intervention	164	112	142	116	134	160	154	162	142	207	179	203	1,875
NM	127	115	149	91	91	126	151	153	112	100	132	103	1,450
Bone Densitometry	164	4	269	124	231	123	164	160	140	192	173	125	1,869
MRI	661	571	622	447	703	529	576	652	586	702	593	622	7,264
Breast Imaging	85	88	58	42	101	21	2	2	7	81	25	18	530
Oral Health	164	205	218	73	327	330	351	222	318	382	280	224	3,094
Total	8,036	6,935	8,357	6,653	9,092	7,471	8,053	8,416	8,366	9,620	8,587	8,409	97,995

4.0. RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. Dr. Asma Al Hatmi:

• MRI Features of Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension (IIH).

2. Dr. Yasser Mahfouz:

- Rib Fractures Detection Using AI Dataset.
- Radiological Assessment of Skeletal Manefestaions in Hypoparathyroidism.

• Radiological Assessment of Os Trigonum in Pediatric Population: A Computed Tomography Study.

3. Dr. Zabah Jawa:

- Retrospective Review of The Preoperative Localization of Parathyroid Adenoma Using SPECT/CT Parathyroid Scintigraphy in Patients with Hyperparathyroidism.
- Surgical Outcome of Parathyroid Adenomas Detected Using Preoperative Parathyroid Scintigraphy At SQUH.
- The Value of 18F-FDG PET\CT in The Evaluation of Patients with Fever of Unknown Origin.

4. Dr. Mirza Amanullah Beg:

- Gorlin-Goltz Syndrome Case Report.
- Developmental Venous Anomaly Presenting as an Acute Stroke Mimic.
- Erdheim-Chester Disease Presenting as Bilateral Facial Masses.

5. Dr. Saleh Baawain:

- Radiological Study of Hepatic Artery Variation in Omani Population.
- Assessment of the Evolution of Radiation Doses and Risk of Cancer from Paediatric CT Imaging Examinations at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital between 2012 and 2023.
- Establishing Normal Spleen Size in Omanis on CT scans.
- Variants of Celiac Artery and SMA in Omanis.

6. Dr. Yarab Al Bulushi:

- Biliary Anatomy in Omani Population, MRCP Findings.
- MR Prostate Radiomic Features and Analysis by Machine Learning.
- Prevalence of Renal Stones in Patients with Crohn's Disease.
- Thyroid FNA Outcomes Pre- and Post- Implementation of TI-RADS.
- Signs of Right Heart Strain, Review and Local Incidence.
- Incidental Pulmonary Nodules on Trauma Scans, Prevalence and Outcomes.
- Types of Bronchiectasis in Local Cases of Cystic Fibrosis.
- Buccal Fat Pad, Anatomic Variations and Radiomics Analysis.
- MR Findings and Clinical Outcomes of Local Cases of Spondylodiscitis.

5.0. RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

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6.0. CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATION:

6.1.0. Conference Attendance

- Dr. Eiman Al Ajmi (Invited Speaker):
 - 1. 3rd Oman Neurology conference September 2-3, 2023, Salalah
 - 'Neuroimaging in Hyperacute stroke'
 - **2.** SQU Otorhinolaryngology Dissection Workshops: Paranasal Sinuses and Skull Base December 4, 2023, Muscat

'Imaging anatomy of the paranasal sinuses and the skull base'

3. SQU Otorhinolaryngology Dissection Workshops: Temporal bone dissection Course December 9, 2023, Muscat

'CT and MRI anatomy of the temporal bones'

6.1.2. Conference Presentations

Early-Onset Progressive Encephalopathy with Brain Edema and/or Leukoencephalopathy-1 (PEBEL1): A Report of Three Patients.

Eiman Al-Ajmi, Fatema Al-Amrani, Fathiya Al-Murshedi The 5th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pediatric Neuroradiology New Orleans, USA 13th- 15th January 2023

Cerebral Fat Embolism in Sickle Cell Disease: MR Imaging Patterns.

Eiman Al-Ajmi, Sameer Raniga, Salam Al-Kindi The 61st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Neuroradiology Chicago, USA 29th April – 3rd May, 2023 International Recognition Award: Oman

 Radiological Assessment of Extracranial Vertebral Artery Variations: A Computed Tomography Angiography Study.

Faiza Al Hajri, Bayan Al Yahya'ey, Srinivasa Rao Sirasanagandla, Sreenivasulu Reddy Mogali and Eiman Al-Ajmi OMSB Career day, December 2023

 Does Frontal Recess Cell Variation Associate with the Development of Frontal Sinusitis? A Narrative Review.

Tariq Al Habsi, Eiman Al-Ajmi, Mohammed Al Washahi, Maitham Al Lawati, Shihab Al Maawali, Amit Mahajan and Srinivasa Rao Sirasanagandla ENT Update 2023
Muscat, 7th-8th December, 2023

7.0. ORAL/ POSTER:

 Anatomical Variations of Frontal Sinus Pneumatization: A Computed-tomography Based Study, Asma Al Hatmi, Srinivasa Rao Sirasanagandla, Eiman Al-Ajmi Radiology Department, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH).

Sultan Qaboos University Medical Journal



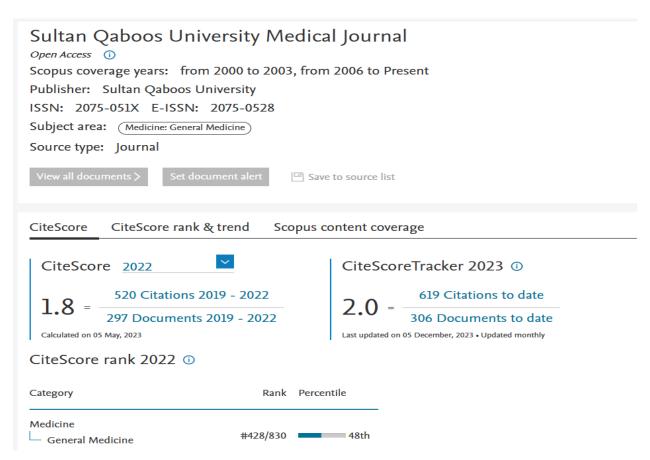
The College of Medicine & Health Science is the 'home' of Sultan Qaboos University Medical Journal (SQUMJ), an internationally peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journal published quarterly online. (SQUMJ) serves as a vital window to the world of research in the global south and a gateway to international research. Its goals are to be a recognised regional medium for biomedical communication, to encourage medical research and publication in Oman and the Gulf region, and to create awareness of new developments among health professionals.

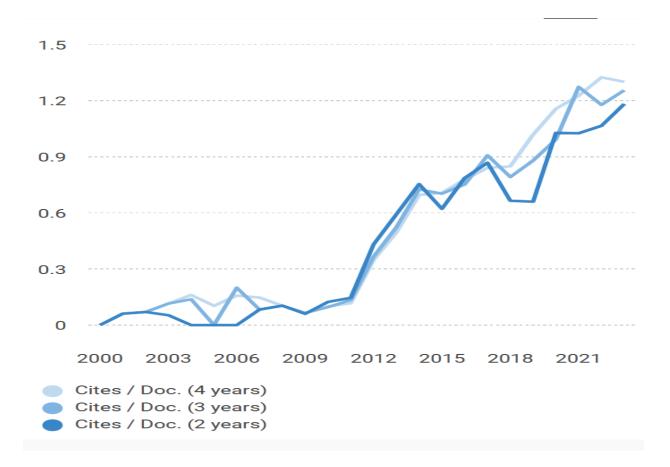
As shown below, SQUMJ is indexed in major databases such as PubMed, SCOPUS, the Directory of Open Access Journals, the Al Manhal database of Arab journals, and the WHO Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. It has an acceptance rate of 22% and a review time of 2-3 months.

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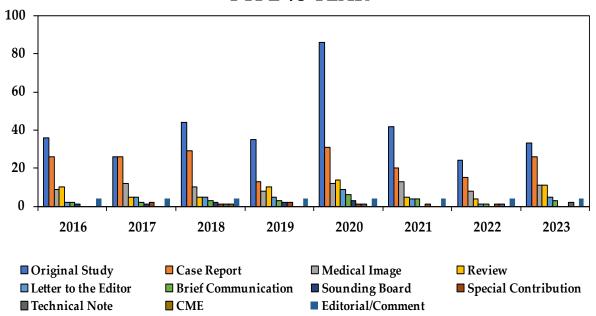
The editorial process of the Sultan Qaboos University Medical Journal (SQUMJ) is designed to ensure the highest standards of scientific integrity and quality. Manuscripts are submitted through an online system and undergo initial technical checks for formatting, ethics, and originality, including plagiarism screening. Manuscripts deemed to be of insufficient interest are promptly rejected. The associate editors then conduct an initial review of scientific validity and possible impact before forwarding suitable manuscripts for blind peer review by three experts. The editorial board and associate editors evaluate peer reviews, address concerns, and decide acceptance, revision, or rejection. Authors may review and resubmit manuscripts based on feedback. Once revisions are satisfactory, the manuscripts are accepted, assigned a DOI, and published online as 'Online First' before inclusion in quarterly issues. The final step involves additional refinement through external proofreading and editing to ensure clarity and precision.

SQU continuously pays attention to trends in publications around the world. Emerging problems in medical journal publications include issues such as redundant publication, failure to publish negative studies, the rise of predatory journals, and the emergency of the paper mill trend. Redundant publication, in which closely related articles are published without clear connections, introduces bias into medical evidence, potentially leading to misleading treatment outcomes. Additionally, the failure to publish negative studies can result in patients receiving ineffective or harmful treatments due to a lack of complete information. Moreover, predatory journals pose a serious threat to the integrity of medical science by attracting submissions with aggressive advertising, high acceptance rates, and inadequate peer review processes, potentially misleading readers and affecting the reputation of authors. Paper mill publications in medical research refer to a type of fraudulent activity in which third-party services create and sell academic papers to researchers, often for a fee. These services produce scientific papers on demand, targeting academics who may lack the necessary research skills, intellectual capacity to write their own papers, or integrity to resist the temptation to cheat. The editorial team at SQUMJ remains vigilant against such trends by staying up to date with international best practices.





ACCEPTED ARTICLES TYPE vs YEAR



Articles Published in Indexed Journal

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