

Achievements

Since its inception in early 2009, the Chair has achieved many of its short-term and long-term objectives. The achievements of the Chair are briefly described below:

- **Units:** Established administrative unit and a fully equipped laboratory within King Faisal University
- **Recruitment:** Recruited staff dedicated to the work of the Chair:
 - Eminent local scientist as Professor of the Chair
 - Research Fellow with extensive experience on hematological diseases
 - Technical staff
- **Training & Transfer of Technology:** Faculty members and the Chair's dedicated staff have received advanced training in stem cell technology and molecular biology techniques at the following renowned international institutes:
 - Stem Cell Center, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
 - Australian Center for Blood Diseases, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia
 - Granada University, Granada, Spain
- **Postgraduate Education:** Established a post-graduate MSc program in molecular biology
- **Collaboration:** The Chair is collaborating with both national and international institutes, namely:
 - King Fahd Hospital, Al-Hofuf
 - Dammam Maternity and Child Hospital
 - Prince Mohammed Center for Research and Consultation Studies, University of Dammam
 - Boston University School of Medicine
 - Emma Children's Hospital, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 - Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, USA
 - Australian Center for Blood Diseases, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia
- **Publication:** Al-Sultan et al. Spectrum of β -thalassemia mutations in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia Hemoglobin, 2011

The Grant

Mr. Omran Mohammed Al-Omran proposed the establishment of the Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Omran Scientific Chair for hematological diseases prevalent in the Al-Ahsa area in memory of his father, the Honorable Sheikh Mohammed Al-Omran. This grant demonstrates Mr. Omran Al-Omran's sense of duty and is an example of an individual's motivating awareness of ethical responsibility to the community.

King Faisal University recognizes and appreciates the important role that this grant will play in contributing towards the improvement of the health of the population of Al-Ahsa in particular and the Kingdom in general.

Acknowledgement

King Faisal University would like to extend its gratitude to Mr. Omran Mohammed Al-Omran for his commitment and dedication to the population of Al-Ahsa. Mr. Al-Omran's vision is to enhance and effectively contribute towards the improvement of the health status of the population of the Al-Ahsa region. This vision was realized through the establishment of the Al-Omran Scientific Chair for Hematological Diseases in memory of his father, the Honorable Sheikh Mohammed Al-Omran.



Ministry of Higher Education

King Faisal University
College of Medicine

Mohammed Bin
Abdulrahman Al-Omran
Scientific Chair
For
Hematological Diseases
Prevalent in the
Al-Ahsa Area

The Al-Ahsa area in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia is known for its prevalence of inherited hematological diseases, including α - and β -thalassemia, sickle cell anemia, Glucose-6-Phosphate-Dehydrogenase deficiency and other inherited hematological abnormalities. These disorders impact the socio-economical status of the population and impose a tremendous burden on the health institutes in the area.

King Faisal University is the major higher education institute in the Al-Ahsa area and is committed to serving the local community. The College of Medicine offers the expertise of its faculty members and facilities to contribute towards the discovery of innovative therapies for these disorders.

King Faisal University has made significant investments to research in hematological diseases. However, in order to realize this goal, extramural funds are vital to broaden the scope of research and strengthen the ties between King Faisal University and the community. The establishment Al-Omran Chair has brought King Faisal University one step closer to this vision.

Vision

To be a leading national blood diseases centre with recognized research, treatment and educational programs in haemoglobinopathies and other blood diseases prevalent in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.

Mission

The major function of the Al-Omran Scientific Chair is to provide the optimal environment for the performance of highly innovative basic and clinical research in hematological diseases prevalent in Al-Ahsa and the surrounding areas. This grant has provided the means for research that is directly related to the improvement of the health status of the local population.

Carrying out such innovative and applied research contributes to the introduction of novel therapies, transfers technology to the Kingdom, trains local health workers in the use of new technologies, and expands collaboration with renowned international research institutes

Objectives

In order for the Sheikh Mohamed Al Omran Scientific Chair in Al-Ahsa to achieve its vision, the following objectives and strategies were developed:

- Conduct leading edge research in hematological diseases to contribute toward the improvement of the health status of the population of Al-Ahssa and the surrounding areas
- Develop a mechanism to rapidly communicate major advances in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of blood diseases to medical practitioners in the Eastern Province.
- To be an active member of and contributor to the international blood research community
- Transfer technology
- Train local health workers in the use of new technologies
- Set the stage to ultimately introduce gene therapy

