

MBRU360

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HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH Hamdan bin Mohammed VISITS **MBRU**

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H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Visits Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences



MBRU Welcomed Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, accompanied by H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chancellor of MBRU, and Chairperson of its Board of Trustees; H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management; H.E. Abdulla Mohammed Al Basti, Secretary General of The Executive Council of Dubai and

Secretary General of MBRU and Hamdan bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine.

During his visit H.H. Sheikh Hamdan said a strong foundation of scientific and academic research is essential to realize our aspirations for the future. To create a solid research base, it is critical to continue efforts to reinforce Dubai's position as a leading international destination for the academic and research community in line with the vision of the

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

His Highness's vision inspires us to develop our national human capital which is critical to accelerating our sustainable development journey in every sector. Investing in scientific and medical research and the healthcare sector represents one of the nation's key strategic priorities, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan said.

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Our strategy is focused on developing initiatives to foster innovation and enhance the quality of education. We believe this is vital to finding unique solutions to the challenges we face and opening new paths to accelerate our journey to the future. The progress achieved by our scientific establishments reassure us about our ability to establish leadership in this domain. The Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences is one of the prime examples of establishments in our country that provide a high quality of education. Such institutions are critical to enhance the healthcare sector and the quality of healthcare services, which are integral elements of Dubai's plan to achieve sustainable development,

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan said.

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MBRU is on the right path to accomplish its objective of becoming a global hub dedicated to research and innovative healthcare education to serve humanity,
His Highness Sheikh Hamdan added.”

During the visit, His Highness toured the main building of MBRU and was briefed about its plans, initiatives, programs, accomplishments and private sector partnerships. H.H. Sheikh Hamdan also toured the Al Maktoum Medical Library and visited the Medical Simulation Center, a fully accredited medical education and training facility equipped with hospital equipment, the largest in the UAE.

His Highness also met with the team of Dubai's COVID-19 Command and Control Center, headed by Dr. Amer Sharif, MBRU's vice chancellor, which includes 1,800 employees from the public and private sector who work on ensuring coordination and aligning the efforts of healthcare

establishments and frontline organizations to counter COVID-19.

The Dubai Crown Prince also visited Hamdan bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine, where he was briefed by Dr. Khawla Humaid Belhouli, Assistant Dean of Student and Alumni Happiness and Wellbeing, HBMCDM, and Director of Dubai Dental Hospital, MBRU's clinical affiliate, about the College's plans and objectives. H.H. Sheikh Hamdan praised the efforts of the University to promote the healthcare sector in the country by developing scientific research and medical education.



MBRU Opens 3rd Cycle of Grant Applications to MBRU-ALMahmeed Research Awards Furthering Health and Biomedical Science for Researchers Locally & Globally

*The MBRU – ALMahmeed Collaborative Research Award to offer grants worth **AED 300,000** for laboratory-based projects and **AED 150,000** for non-laboratory-based projects*



MBRU aiming to be a global hub for innovative and integrated healthcare education and research, has begun its grant application process for the 2020 MBRU–ALMahmeed Collaborative Research Award – which supports distinct proposals to further research in health, medical, and biomedical sciences.

The Award's grant, which totals AED300,000 for laboratory-based projects and AED150,000 for non-laboratory projects, will be assigned to proposals that contribute to basic, translational, clinical and public health research. Projects contributing to cancer, biologic, mental health, and cardio-metabolic disease (including diabetes and obesity) research have been marked as a priority for the funding.

Dr. Wael ALMahmeed said,

I am happy to hear about the announcement of the third cycle of this award. I am pleased with the progress of the winners of the previous 2 cycles. COVID-19 has pushed medical research to the forefront of our lives, so I hope we get some excellent proposals this year.



Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Provost and Dean of the College of Medicine said, *“We’re pleased to announce a 3rd cycle of the MBRU- AlMahmeed Award. We’ve had two very successful cycles in the past two years attracting applicants from all over the world. We’re also very grateful to Dr. AlMahmeed for his generous gift reflecting a conviction that the wider community is an essential partner for universities as we all strive to advance the science agenda in the UAE and the region.”*

He further added, *“Through an innovative and globally connected academic health system, we understand the critical role research plays in the field of healthcare. Through this Award we encourage the academic community to put forward proposals that will have a direct and positive impact on the healthcare sector as well as advancing academic knowledge in the UAE and the world.”*

Submitted proposals will undergo a competitive peer-evaluation process conducted by a panel of external experts and reviewers - assessing the project’s ability to produce new research findings, support the development of new technology and have a long-term positive impact on social, economic or environmental issues important to the UAE.

In 2019, the MBRU – AlMahmeed Collaborative Research Award received 45 applications and issued grants worth AED 1,250,000 to 5 research projects covering cancer, diabetes, and orthodontics.

The grant whose duration may last up to two years is open to full-time MBRU faculty members who can collaborate with national or international researchers.

The applications for the 2020 cycle will be evaluated, with weightage given to scientific merit and significance of the proposal, clarity of the rationale suggested and contemporariness of the objectives, a well-defined research plan, and the presence of an adequate sample size. The deadline to apply is September 15, 2020, to apply please click [here](#).



National Program for Happiness and Wellbeing Joins Forces with MBRU to Promote Mental Health and Foster Compassion

البرنامج الوطني
للسعادة وجودة الحياة
National Program for
Happiness & Wellbeing



The **Find Your Light** course is available at <https://learn.mbru.ac.ae/courses/findyourlight>

Building on the widespread success of current digital learning initiatives at MBRU, the UAE's National Program of Happiness and Wellbeing and MBRU have joined forces to promote mental health and encourage compassion during these unprecedented times.

'**Find Your Light**' is the latest online course launched by MBRU and part three of the the MBRU Community Immunity Ambassador Program which highlights methods of prevention and containing the spread of COVID-19.

With the world still battling the COVID-19 virus and grappling with uncertainty over when life will return to normal, Find Your Light is designed to teach specific techniques to help increase self-awareness, normalize emotions, and support overall wellbeing. The course, which is self-paced and requires approximately 60 minutes to complete, is structured around the philosophy that showing compassion can find and ignite inner light in a person, creating a recurring wave and fostering connectivity and togetherness across the world.

The Program follows a comprehensive approach to promote and enhance wellbeing in the UAE, including mental and physical health, by encouraging government and community initiatives aimed at supporting mental health in the community, to support the UAE government's National Strategy for Wellbeing.

said **Aziz Al Ameri**, Executive Director of the National Program for Happiness and Wellbeing

Dr. Amer Sharif, Vice Chancellor of MBRU said,

Find Your Light is an extension to the efforts of the National Program of Happiness and Wellbeing and we are proud of this partnership. At MBRU, we aim to advance health in the UAE and the region through an innovative and integrated academic health system in service of humanity, and mental health is an integral part of this system. In these extraordinary times, it is important that we all show compassion and understanding towards ourselves and others to help spread positivity globally at a time when connectedness and togetherness proved to be what matters most. Through this initiative, we would like to encourage people to pay greater attention to their mental wellbeing and cultivate a more empathetic outlook through developing their self-awareness via evidence-based scientific methods to help people locally and worldwide exercise and spread compassion.



The MBRU Community Immunity Ambassador Program has enjoyed an incredible global response with more than 965,000 people signing up to become Community Immunity Ambassadors.





Genetics Play an Important Role in Mental Health

An interview with Dr. Ammar Al Banna
- Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, College of Medicine

During June, Alzheimer and Brain month, The Gulf Today interviewed Dr. Ammar Al Banna, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry College of Medicine at MBRU, to discuss mental disorders and mental health. In his interview, Dr. Ammar described mental disorders as multi-dimensional or multi-factorial. He stated that it's important to emphasize that the brain is the most complex object in the universe made of billions of cells and trillions of connections. He further stated that mental disorders are the interplay of biological, psychological and social/non-biological aspects. The non-biological factors are trauma, domestic violence, family dysfunction, low esteem and eating disorders arising from cultural idiosyncrasies and norms. He also mentioned that genetics have a critical role in mental challenges, citing anxiety.

Dr. Ammar also discussed personalized medicine for complex mental disorders, he's hopeful that despite personalized medicine being yet remote, studies on

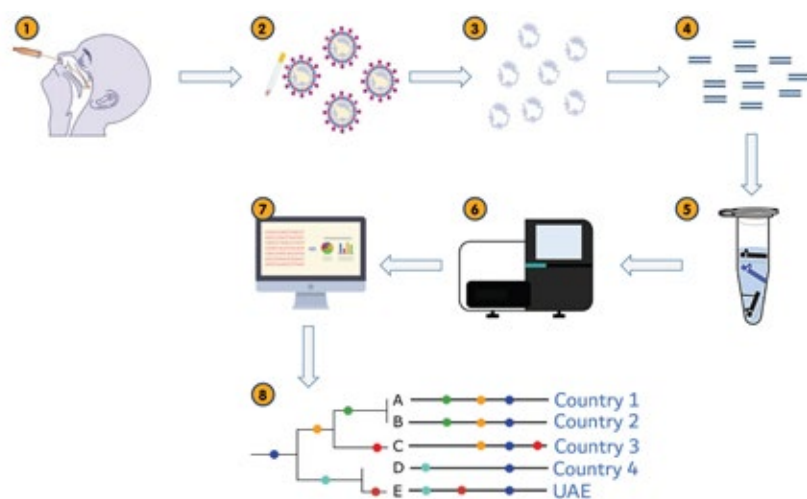
possible treatments have been ongoing which in the long run would bring in beneficial breakthroughs.

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For instance, some studies are trying to see whether we can predict which anti-depressant to use. Personalized medicine aims to tailor treatments based on the individual. In order to reach such personalized interventions, the field is moving towards thinking outside of the box of classical categorical classifications, towards more specific biological markers and precise behavioral measures for early detection and specific interventions, Dr. Ammar noted.

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The UAE's First Full Genome Sequencing of the Virus Causing COVID-19



- 1 A nasal swab sample obtained from a COVID-19 patient
- 2 Sample containing SARS-CoV-2 transferred to lab
- 3 SARS-CoV-2 genetic material (RNA) isolated in the lab
- 4 The virus RNA is converted into double stranded DNA
- 5 The DNA is engineered and amplified to make a library of SARS-CoV-2 genome content
- 6 The SARS-CoV-2 genome library is sequenced to determine the combination of its A,G, C, T letters
- 7 The SARS-CoV-2 genome sequence is computationally assembled
- 8 The SARS-CoV-2 genome sequence obtained in UAE is compared to sequences from other countries to determine its origin (adapted from nextstrain.org).

virus from many patients, scientists can get a better understanding of how the virus spreads, which can later inform measures to combat the virus.

Dr. Amer Sharif, Vice Chancellor of MBRU and head of Dubai's COVID-19 Command and Control Center said that completion of the genome sequencing procedure is proof of the effective collaboration between key entities in the healthcare sector in the fight against COVID-19.

Dubai's COVID-19 Command and Control Center has announced the UAE's first full genome sequencing of the virus causing COVID-19. The successful sequencing of the virus from a patient in Dubai was performed by researchers (MBRU) in collaboration with the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) and Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital's Genomics Center. The Genomics

Center was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in January of this year.

Recent studies show that the virus causing COVID-19 (known as SARS-CoV-2) changes its genetic code every two weeks on average. By studying the genetic sequence of the

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This information is very important to trace the origin of infection in this specific patient in the UAE and can tell us a lot about viral transmission in the emirates. However, more viral strains need to be sequenced from several patients from different regions within the country, and different time points of infection. All the data can then be compiled to construct a spatiotemporal map of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the UAE, and to highlight any infection hotspots requiring higher surveillance during this, or any future similar, pandemics. Moreover, given Dubai's role and geographic location as a bridge between the East and the West, this information will also help in understanding how the pandemic has been spreading globally.

Dr. Ahmad Abou Tayon, Associate Professor of Genetics at MBRU and Director of the Genomics Center at Al Jalila Children's

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The latest sequencing is part of a larger project led by MBRU, DHA, Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital and other local universities. The genome sequencing will continue with samples from 240 patients in the UAE, which will help scientists determine which viral strains cause severe versus mild disease, information that will help in patient management. It will also help in understanding if vaccines, which are currently under development, can be as effective in the UAE.





The genome sequencing procedure is a direct result of the collaborative work between academic and research institutions. As we're witnessing with this genome project having a proactive academic health system in place helps address challenges in the healthcare field that make significant changes in the scientific community which ultimately serves our communities. This new finding will provide great impetus to the scientific community on understanding and analyzing the COVID-19 virus, in our efforts to contain and stop the spread of this virus. With the expansion of the genome sequencing procedures across the UAE, we look forward to further developments from the scientific community that will strengthen the fight against the pandemic. The role our scientific community is playing is vital in informing policy locally and globally. Reiterating the words of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, the world has long been questioning where the true power lies, the spread of COVID-19 has shown that healthcare is the main power that shapes economy and politics at a time when a disease brought nations to a standstill.

Dr. Amer Sharif
Vice Chancellor of MBRU and Head of Dubai's
COVID-19 Command and Control Center



The Dubai COVID-19 Command and Control Center was established by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, to ensure entities from the field of healthcare and multiple pivotal sectors are aligned with the Dubai Government's efforts to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak.





#MBRUHacksCOVID19

#MBRUHacksCOVID19 Hackathon Winning Team Provide Communities Impacted With COVID-19 Bounceback Ability Amid Pandemic Crisis

The winners of the #MBRUHacksCOVID19 hackathon, a pioneering competition which tasked UAE residents with developing innovative solutions that could help in the fight against the global pandemic, have been crowned. The winning quartet took the top prize for their solution, Bounceback, a platform that utilizes machine learning algorithms and tokenization to identify, verify and provide immediate subsidy relief to vulnerable communities and individuals who have suffered financially from the global health crisis.

The hackathon was held by MBRU in partnership with the Dubai Institute for Design and Innovation (DIDI), the American University of Sharjah, Sandooq Al Watan and guana. Professor Homero Rivas and Dr. Thomas Boillat, co-founders of the MBRU Design Lab, were the driving forces behind the #MBRUHacksCOVID19 initiative. The winning Bounceback team of Faisal Al Hawi, Yves Farhat, Santhosh Kumar, Veronica Murguia, beat off competition from more than 470 hackers.

During the three-day hackathon, which attracted innovators from the fields of engineering, coding, design thinking, data analytics, medicine, public health and more, Bounceback focused on the challenge of delivering a solution to prevent social and economic disruption in vulnerable communities.

Bounceback utilizes a suite of emerging technologies: big data analytics, blockchain and artificial intelligence that allows for efficient transparent and effective match-making between a beneficiary in need and a subsidy donor or contributor to ensure that relief funds and packages reach the most vulnerable, whether individuals or businesses.

We feel the responsibility of contributing to the world as we are all going through the COVID-19 crisis. We strongly felt the pain of vulnerable individuals and families and followed the need to support and give back to the community. Human-centric innovation is the best way to support those in need and enables us to make a conscious use of technology to create impact and drive change. We were extremely engaged and energized during the hackathon to provide something purposeful that could potentially change lives. The organizers made it all very smooth and an exciting journey as well. We look forward to bringing our platform to life.

The Bounceback team



Challenging times bring out the best in people, working collectively to identify solutions to those challenges, and we certainly saw that during the three days of the hackathon. We know that Dubai is a hub for innovation, but the creative thinking, collaboration, and desire to push boundaries exceeded our expectations. With more than 470 creative minds rising to our task, this really was a sign that we are all in this together.

Professor Rivas, Associate Dean of Innovation and the Future at the College of Medicine, MBRU



For more information on Bounceback click [here](#) to watch this [video](#).

The French Consul General Visits MBRU and Recognizes Efforts of The Dubai COVID-19 Command and Control Center



MBRU hosted France's Consul General in Dubai, Her Excellency Raja Rabia for further knowledge exchange and cooperation. Furthermore, the Consul General learned about the Emirate's strategies to control the spread of COVID-19 through the Dubai COVID-19 Command and Control Center.

Consul General Rabia was given a tour of the Center,

which is housed at MBRU by Dr. Amer Sharif, head of the Dubai COVID-19 Command and Control Center and Vice Chancellor of MBRU. The Consul General was briefed on the vision and commitment of Dubai's leadership to ensure the safety of the emirate's citizens and residents by containing the pandemic through the implementation of early interventions.



Thanks to the vision, commitment and rapid response of our leadership, the UAE and Dubai have made great strides in the fight to control the spread of the virus and it was a privilege to share the work of MBRU with the honorable Consul General and showcase the active role MBRU has played in this global pandemic.

The commitment and cooperation between members of the community is a key factor in the fight against COVID-19, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their relentless commitment to the precautionary measures and encourage them to continue following these measures for their own safety and their families and friends.

added **Dr. Sharif.**





The delegation expressed its gratitude for the efforts made by various authorities to keeping everyone safe and healthy while containing the pandemic, and ensuring their safe return to work, which was also praised by a number of French residents in the UAE, who in turn expressed their full commitment and cooperation to the precautionary measures implemented by local authorities.

The visit is part of a series of visits organized by MBRU to further knowledge exchange and cooperation with other entities, and to facilitate direct communication between the Command and Control Center and the authorities responsible for residents in the UAE to understand their point of view and ensure the health and safety of everyone.

The visit was attended by the Consul General and an accompanying delegation which included Laurent Régot, Vice-President of the French Consular Council, Marie-Laurie Charrier, Deputy Consul General, Agnès Lopez Cruz, Managing Director of the French Business Council; Melanie Martini, Director of Alliance Francaise; Aurelian Nou, delegate to the Ministry of Economy and Finance; Hugo Henry, Cultural & Cooperation Counselor, as well as members of MBRU's faculty and the Command and Control Center.

DISRUPTION IN HEALTHCARE: Tools to Redesign Your Business Model



On May 20th almost 100 physicians, nurses and other medical professionals from around the country and globally joined Associate Dean of Innovation and the Future, Professor Homero Rivas and Assistant Professor of Healthcare Innovation and Technologies Thomas Boillat for their session, "Disruption in healthcare: Tools to redesign your business model".

Many Events Can Disrupt a Business

Whether a hospital or clinic, a medical device company, or a restaurant establishing a business is not a one-time plan. The market is dynamic, and many factors have an impact such as competition, customer needs/demand, policies, regulations, technologies, and those factors challenge businesses every day. Some of these challenges can be expected. For instance, a hospital can foresee the building of a new, high-tech clinic across the street. A medical device company might see its business threatened by a new technology. Or, a more recent example is the complete shutdown of cities and countries globally, to avoid the propagation of a life-threatening virus. So how do businesses stay in the game despite all of these challenges?

In the session they introduced two tools to empower business professionals to redesign their business model and value proposition, the Business Model Canvas and the Value Proposition Canvas.

The Business Model Canvas

The Business Model Canvas was designed by Professor Yves Pigneur and Dr. Alexander Osterwalder at the University



of Lausanne in Switzerland. It was originally created to help startups to:

- Clearly and systematically describe the key elements involved in the delivery of a product or service
- Understand the required stakeholders and their dynamics
- Establish a common language to ease the communication amongst stakeholders
- Reduce the risk of failure by quickly identifying gaps or misalignments

However, the success of the Business Model Canvas has gone beyond expectations of the authors and it has been used by more than 5 million people working at startups as well as Fortune 500 companies. The Business Model Canvas can therefore be used for any type of business.

The Value Proposition Canvas

The Value Proposition Canvas was designed by the same authors of the Business Model Canvas. They realized that many companies were not only struggling with designing their business model, but also with defining their value proposition.

To read more please visit: <https://www.mbru.ac.ae/news/disruption-in-healthcare-tools-to-redesign-your-business-model/>



Majlis Mohamed Bin Zayed

A proud moment for all of us. Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali and Dr. Tom Loney were hosted on the virtual majlis of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, **The Mohamed bin Zayed Majlis**.
Link: <https://youtu.be/j6FRLaTPuvE>

What we've been up to

One with the waves

Did you attend our weekly mindfulness sessions yet? They're created to handle the pressures of the COVID-19 crisis that includes a potpourri of relaxation techniques aimed to unwind, relax and energize the body and the mind with our guidance counselor, Dr. Bhavana Nair.



Hear from the attendees firsthand about their experience:

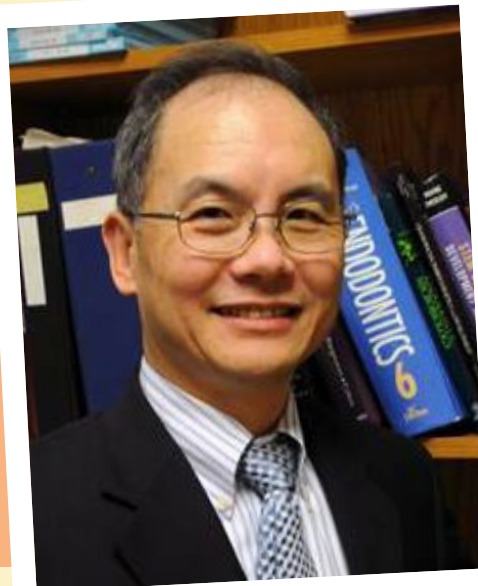
"I look forward to the trips that we go on with Bhavana on a weekly basis. We get to unwind and connect with nature through visualization, I feel much more relaxed following these sessions. I also love that there's always a pearl or two of wisdom that she shares with us sometime during the session which resonate in my mind for the rest of the day" - **Dr. Reem Jan**

"Definitely my favorite Teams meeting of the week. The sessions create a space to completely switch off, allowing me to focus on myself for a change. I always leave relaxed and rejuvenated. It is like a power bank for the mind." - **Professor Stefan Du Plessis**

"Amazing" ❤️❤️ - **Dr. Reem AlGurg**

MBRU DENTalks

The new dental seminar series offers attendees the chance to listen live to industry experts covering an array of topics in the field of dentistry. In our very first seminar, Professor George T-J Huang talked about "Conservative vs. Regenerative Endodontics – From Animal Studies to Clinical Trials"





What we've
been up to

Check out our COVID-19: Back to Campus Course Part of the CITI Program

We have added a new course "COVID-19: Back to Campus (Fall 2020)" to our CITI Program subscription. This complimentary course provides an overview of COVID-19, prevention strategies, recommended laboratory practices, and points to consider as students, staff, and faculty move forward to return to activities and operations. Supplemental modules focus on topics related to research with human subjects, animal care and use, and working with patients who may be infected or suspected with COVID-19, and provide learners the option to review these topics if applicable to their current work or school setting. Click [here](#) to learn more.

COVID-19: Back to Campus (Fall 2020)

A complimentary course to train staff, students, and faculty on COVID-19 safety for their return to campus.

COURSE SAMPLE

DEMO COURSE NOW

FREE FOR ORGANIZATIONS

ADD COURSE NOW



MOU with Dubai Tourism

"We're very excited to partner with Dubai Tourism to attract scientists and healthcare professionals from around the world to attend conferences and congresses on our premise. Our strategic collaboration will support in developing, attracting, and organizing international meetings and conferences in Dubai."

Professor Zaid Hani Baqain

Deputy Vice Chancellor
for International Relations
and Dean of the Hamdan
Bin Mohammed College
of Dental Medicine at MBRU



What we've been up to

The National Ambassadors Program "Estedad"

MBRU took part in The Ministry of Education's Ambassadors Program 'Estedad', which is a 4-week program, that aims to provide high school students with essential skills such as research, soft skills, entrepreneurial, leadership, and diplomatic skills, enabling them to prosper in various fields.

برنامج
سفراؤنا
الوطني

ESTEDAD | NATIONAL
AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Journal Club

Dr. Fernando Rojas-Vizcaya joined June's Journal Club meeting, where our postgraduate dental student Sara Ali presented two papers by Dr. Rojas-Vizcaya, followed by a lively discussion on aesthetic implant dentistry and implant treatment planning.



My Journey from Nigeria to the United States to Dubai

Check out Victory Olowoyeye's interview with Dubai Tourism



Dubai Tourism interviewed Victory Olowoyeye, our student at the College of Medicine to understand why she chose to study medicine and why MBRU. Selecting the perfect-fit medical college means making an informed choice, Victory talks about her admissions process, her experience at the school and plans for the future.

What are the main factors you considered when you were about to choose a medical school?

Because of my experience in the US one of the most important factors for me was whether the school accepts international students. When I was doing my research before applying it seemed like MBRU was open to all students and that really encouraged me to apply. I also wanted to go to school somewhere closer to home and Dubai was the perfect fit for that.

Why did you choose MBRU?

I did my undergrad in the US and my plan was initially to go medical school there, but a family friend told me about MBRU. I went online to do my own research and I liked the information I found, then I applied in 2017.

Can you describe your admission processes into MBRU?

It was very straightforward for me especially since I had already done my first degree. I just had to fill out the application and upload some documents like my undergrad transcript, WAEC transcript and TOEFL scores.

Was the student body diverse and how was it fitting into the student community away from home?

The school is really diverse, and there are lots of Africans in Dubai generally.

The professors are also diverse which is something I really appreciate; having professors from all over the world helps you get an international worldview.

Please tell me about the MBBS curriculum in MBRU at both the pre-clinical and clinical years.

I'm going to start my clinical years in August so I can speak more about the preclinical years. In the first year we learn about ethics, the history of medicine and foundational concepts; it's basically an introduction to everything. We also start going to hospitals in the first semester just to give us a feel of what it is like and to get us accustomed to the hospital setting. An interesting part of the preclinical curriculum is that we're required to take a course on innovation which is less about medicine and more about how to have a career as a medical professional in today's fast changing world, so it covers things like business, how to make presentations and things like that. Then we get to learn anatomy and then organ systems. We also do research throughout the course of the program. For the clinical years we have clinical rotations and we see everything we have learned put into practice.



What modalities are used for the student lectures?

We have lectures by professors and tutorials where we get in groups and work together usually to do research and make a presentation. We also have some classes in the labs when we have to do things like dissection in the anatomy lab. We also get to do some of our coursework in the physiology and microbiology labs. We learn in the hospital sometimes and we get to do this right from our first year.

What type of facilities are available both inside and outside MBRU to help students with the MBBS program?

We have a very extensive medical library which is not only used by students but also by other people in the medical community. We also have a very large simulation center

which is accredited and the largest in Dubai. We also have other things like the lounges, labs, etc. but I thought the simulations center and library are very notable.

From your experience, what does MBRU have to offer students outside of academics?

We have clubs, we even have a global day now and you can join sports clubs as well, there's table tennis and football. We get to have picnics once a semester where everyone including the faculty come together. There's also a counselor available at no extra cost.

Did you get involved in any of the extracurricular activities available at MBRU?

I was mostly involved in the Student Council and we had to plan most

of the events in conjunction with the student services team, so even without being in other clubs, I was still a part of activities that took place. Also, I make use of the recreational facilities



(e.g. table tennis) available in the university.

Dubai is known to have some of the best healthcare facilities in the world, does studying at MBRU help you take advantage of this?

I'm really proud to be at my school because it's so recognized in Dubai. MBRU is involved in everything going on in Dubai health wise, so if there's a health conference we usually get complimentary tickets or discounted prices and we also have a lot of external events at the school itself.

How is MBRU preparing its graduates for both residencies in Dubai and outside Dubai?

We have a lot of affiliations with hospitals in Dubai and right now they're even working on having our 6th year count as an internship and that's really great because it's going to be very beneficial when we start applying for residencies. They also prepare students who have plans of doing residency elsewhere for that journey.

For example, we're prepared to take the USMLE which is an exam for those seeking to pursue a residency through the US path.

Although it's not part

of the curriculum, we are prepared for it just in case there are students who want to do their residency elsewhere. They prepare you for a career journey even if it's not continuing in Dubai; if you know where you want to go next and you know all the requirements, they are on hand to make sure you meet all the requirements.

Are you enjoying your studies at MBRU and would you recommend MBRU to other students interested in studying the MBBS Program?

I will definitely recommend MBRU to other students. There are lots of learning opportunities here and just like me, they will be proud to be MBRU students.

Can you mention any other positive aspects at MBRU that you'd like to share?

We have medical insurance provided by the school and it includes dental insurance so that's great. We are also provided with options for summer research programs, clinical observership and other learning opportunities in different parts of the world. Also, the university provides a partial scholarship to the ten top students every year. They also offer a partial financial need scholarship to students who demonstrate a financial need.

Congratulations to our Alumni, Dr. Heba Allah Madi on being elected as Councilor-at-large of the Canadian Association for Dental Research and the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research National Student Research Group for a one-year term.



CADR | ACRD

Canadian Association for Dental Research
L'Association Canadienne de Recherche Dentaires



**Network for Canadian
Oral Health Research**
Réseau canadien de recherche
en santé buccodentaire



Education in the COVID-Era

Hear from our Postgraduate Dental Student Mustafa Abdalla About his Experience with Distance Education

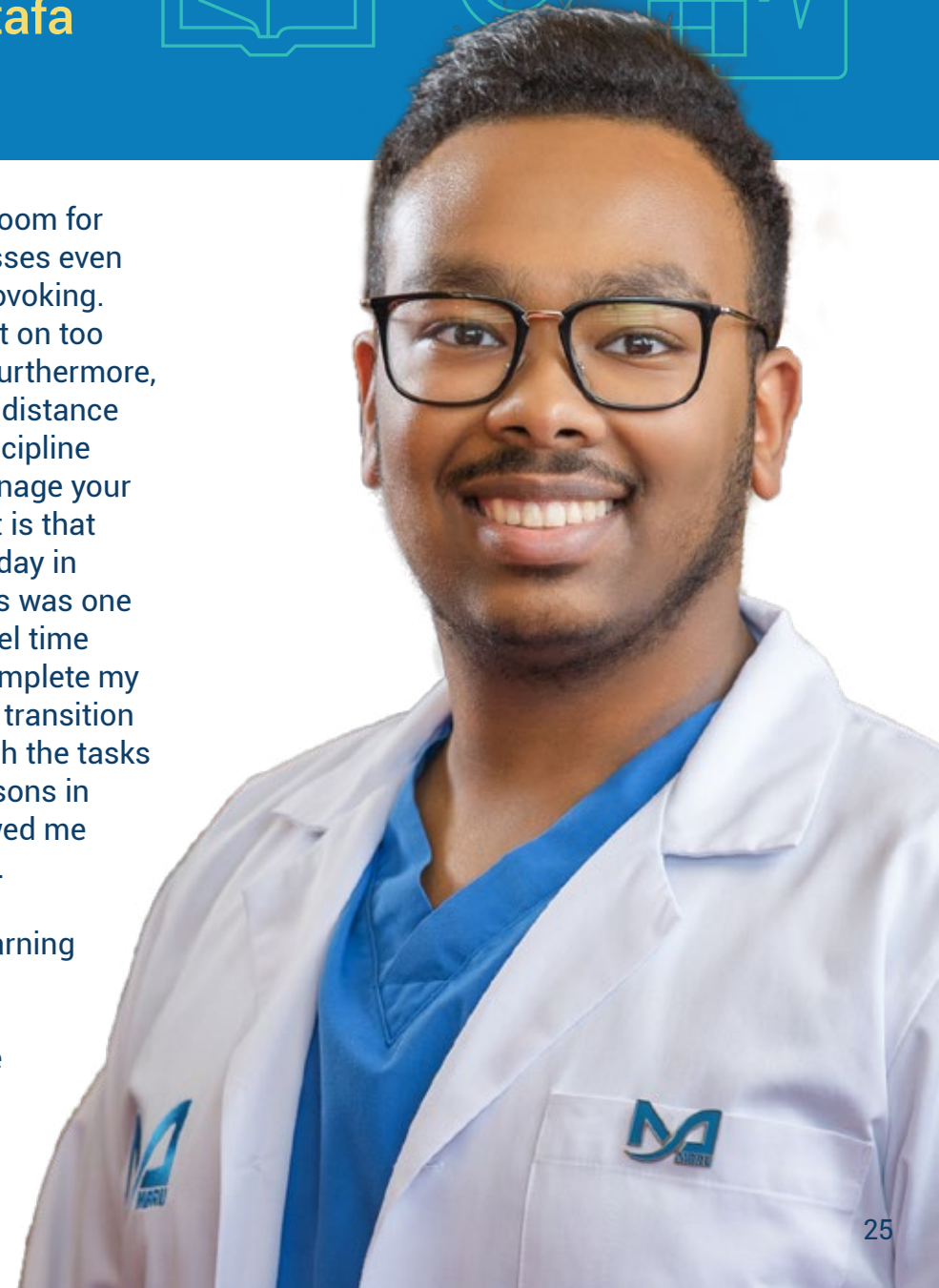


My name is Mustafa Abdalla, a postgraduate dental student in Pediatric Dentistry at MBRU. Just recently I finished my master's degree in Pediatric Dentistry, and towards the end of it we made the transition to online education. It was my first time undertaking online education, as all my previous education was all on-campus.

My experience with online education was enriching. Despite my initial lack of enthusiasm towards the changes, my opinions drastically changed over time. At MBRU, the transition was very smooth. This created a general feeling of acceptance of the new educational style. The whole process of alteration was explained to us initially. We were briefed and informed about all the preparation we needed to do beforehand, the changes that took place concerning our schedules, as well as the process and the mechanism of logging into the online platform. It was truly pleasant, that the communication with the instructors and other students was tremendously

facilitated. We also had enough room for discussions which made the classes even more interesting and thought-provoking. I did not feel like I am missing out on too much by taking online classes. Furthermore, I learned that, to be a successful distance learner, you need to have self-discipline and have the ability to wisely manage your time. Another exceptional benefit is that I did not have to commute every day in heavy traffic hours. Instead, class was one push-of-a-button away. The travel time alone was sufficient for me to complete my assigned work. Not only has this transition given me the ability to accomplish the tasks allotted to me and attend my lessons in a timely fashion, it has also allowed me to devote more time to my family.

In conclusion, online distance learning fit my life seamlessly. I would definitely be considering it in the future. The only drawback for me was when my computer crashed, nevertheless, the experience has been a truly rewarding one.

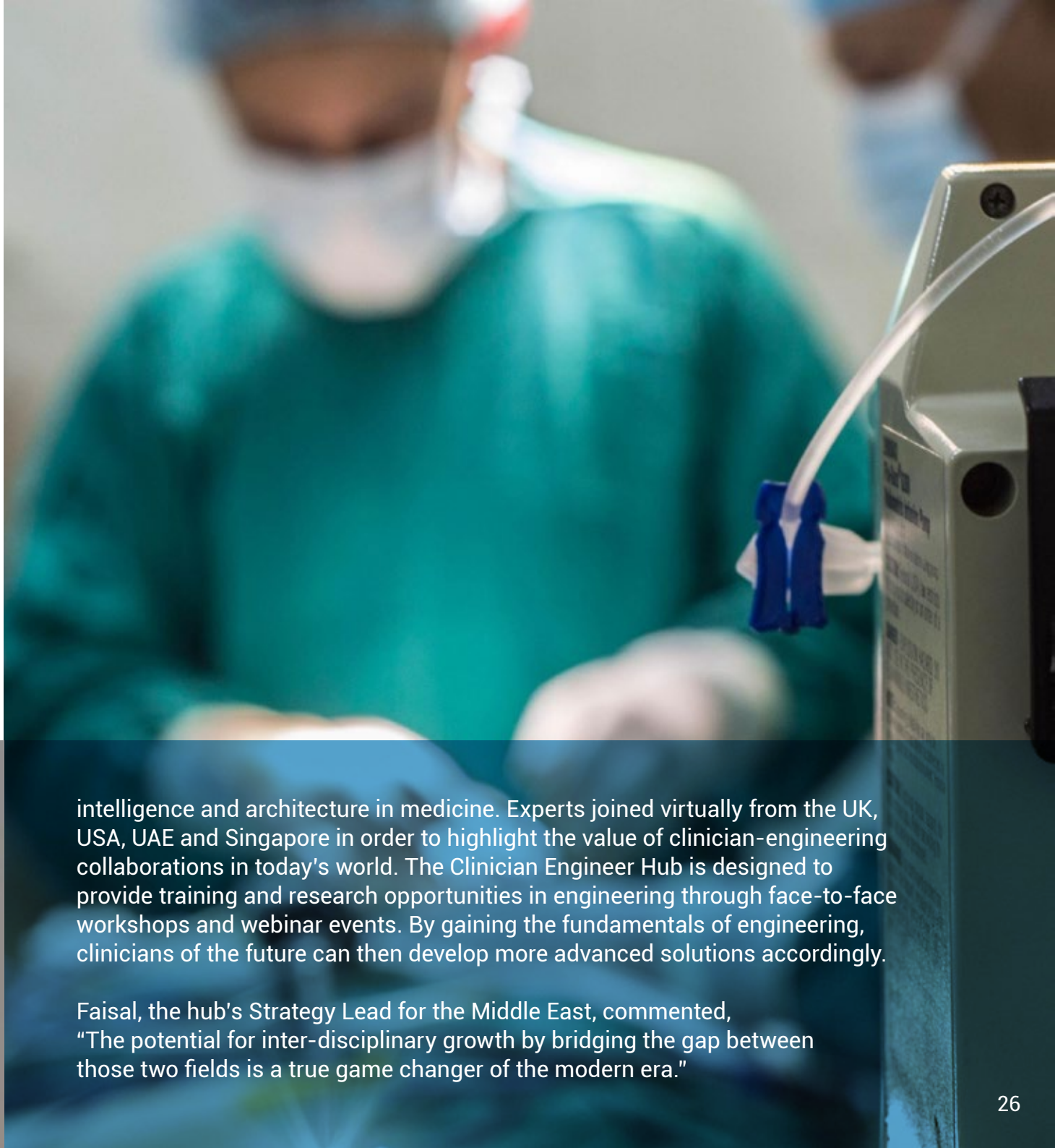


MBRU Student Organizes Clinician Engineer Hub Webinar Series

Earlier in May our MBRU Year-4 medical student, Faisal Nawaz, had the honor of organizing the Clinician Engineer Hub Webinar Series. This event was co-hosted with Dr. Lady Katherine Mejia Perez and supported by EIT Health alumni Liana Shvachiy, on behalf of the Clinician Engineer Hub, an international platform aimed at bridging the gap between medicine and engineering, founded by Dr. Neel Sharma, Dr. Ali Yetisen and Dr. Mads Bergholt. The Series brought together world-renowned speakers in the fields of biomedical engineering, robotics, artificial

intelligence and architecture in medicine. Experts joined virtually from the UK, USA, UAE and Singapore in order to highlight the value of clinician-engineering collaborations in today's world. The Clinician Engineer Hub is designed to provide training and research opportunities in engineering through face-to-face workshops and webinar events. By gaining the fundamentals of engineering, clinicians of the future can then develop more advanced solutions accordingly.

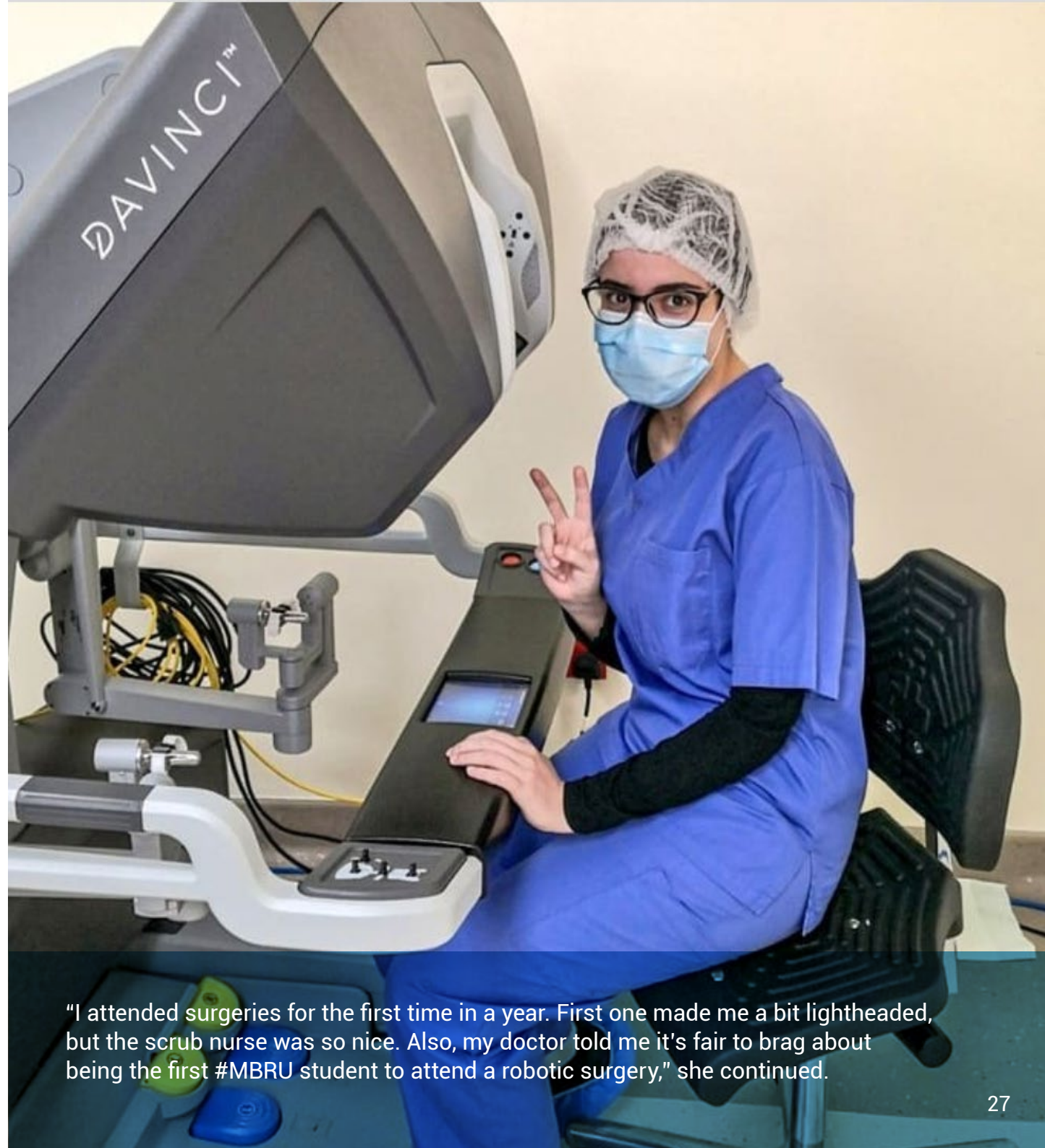
Faisal, the hub's Strategy Lead for the Middle East, commented, "The potential for inter-disciplinary growth by bridging the gap between those two fields is a true game changer of the modern era."



Medical Students Push to Continue Learning at Hospitals Amid COVID-19

Reem's Story with Clinical Rotations

Every year at this time our medical students look forward to the Summer Scholars Program, this year, however, COVID-19 has changed that. Reem Hatim, Year-4 medical student, like many of her peers was looking forward to spending the summer applying what she has learned thus far at a hospital locally or somewhere around the world. Since the pandemic made that impossible, Reem reached out to her professors to see whether she could volunteer at Mediclinic City Hospital's Surgery Department. Her professors helped her out and she was able to volunteer and work closely with a number of surgeons. She says, *"I always thought surgeons were the coolest, but after 1 day of attending clinics and taking care of patients in the ward for nearly 12 hrs, I have a newfound respect for surgeons who deal with the good and bad that comes with the job while keeping a polite demeanor."*



"I attended surgeries for the first time in a year. First one made me a bit lightheaded, but the scrub nurse was so nice. Also, my doctor told me it's fair to brag about being the first #MBRU student to attend a robotic surgery," she continued.

Faculty Corner



Brand MBRU: Insights into assessments during COVID-19

By Professor Ritu Lakhtakia

The practice of medicine lays strong emphasis on preventive healthful practices to avoid disease and interventions to cure or mitigate the impact of sickness. It is appropriate that an academic health center, adopts the same approach. MBRU has been walking the talk. This narrative of assessment management at MBRU during the COVID-19 pandemic, outlines the three phases of readiness, response, and review, period after review. Blended in this account are the vital ingredients that mark Brand MBRU across all domains in its evolution: vision (leadership that imagines the future), vital soft power (personnel), valuable assets (infrastructure) and velocity (rapid adaptation).

Readiness

There were two unique aspects, working in tandem, that mitigated the surprise element of the current pandemic. The first - a sustained vision of digital transformation and innovation in the growth of our young institution. The second - an ecosystem

characterised by a lean, maverick faculty and targeted development of supporting facilities, aligned to the vision of training health professionals of the future. On the eve of COVID-19 lockdown, the assessment launching pad was ready for a quick booster to enter virtual space, courtesy Smart Services that have been the vital nerve center of MBRU's academic aspirations.

Response

They say the best laid plans can go awry. Indeed, the ongoing semesters of the academic year for four cohorts of students, had a well-constructed assessment plan in place. A regrouping effort towards assessment contingency plans was underpinned by three concerns: impact on student learning and assessment stress; faculty adaptation to change; and conduct of exams under unprecedented circumstances. All of these were framed by guidelines from the Ministry of Education. The operative phrase was change-on-the-go. Faculty effort, 24x7 IT support and a core command and control

SAPC group were the drivers. Pending exam components were quickly reweighted/rescheduled to match altered timelines. Since clinical teaching had transformed to virtual, skill based OSCEs were the most impacted. Exam blueprints had to be modified to reflect the ability to test some domains and not others: eOSCEs were delivered with yeoman effort. Communication was key: both faculty and students responded to modifications of the status quo. Armed already with a robust digital examination platform, ExamSoft, a rapid transit to remote, off-line proctored exams using ExamMonitor, was implemented. Faculty development and extensive student guidelines were a prelude to execution.

Thus, the higher stake final examinations were conducted with a degree of confidence towards fairness and academic integrity.

Review

The pre- and intra- COVID-19 response to assessment management would be incomplete without an honest appraisal of challenges and lessons for the post-COVID-19 era. Students' stress was evident as the situation changed rapidly. They were supported with clarity on processes in the preparatory period and intense minute-by-minute virtual support during examinations. Academic advisers, student services,

counselor, and peer mentoring, upped the ante. Options on grades and post-exam advisory offered students' closure on strained circumstances. The IT-team was stretched to its limits yet responded with patience and innovative solutions. Exam integrity was a real concern; despite AI-enabled exam monitoring, considerable manual oversight on exam videos was followed by advisories on off-site exam behavior. The road ahead demands reflections for the long haul. The COVID-19 period invites additional rethink on exam policy and process. It is an opportunity to develop resilience on multiple fronts. Brand MBRU stimulated a digital pace in the early years of its evolution; the COVID-19 'virtual assessathon' has demonstrated its academic-worthiness in adversity.



Upcoming EVENTS

ORIENTATION DAYS:

College of Medicine

Undergraduate: 23th August 2020

Graduate: 24th August 2020

College of Nursing and Midwifery

Sunday, 30th August 2020

Thursday, 10th September 2020

White Coat Ceremony

Tuesday, 22nd September 2020

- SIM WEEK 2020 -

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sunday, 13 th September 2020	9.00 AM – 12.00 PM	High Fidelity Simulators Workshop
	12.00 PM -1.00 PM	Opening Ceremony
	1.00 PM – 4.00 PM	MBRU SIMCONNECT 2020 Short Communications – Simulation Based Education
Tuesday, 15 th September 2020	10.00 AM -11.00 PM	Skillathon
	1.00 PM -2.00 PM	Skillathon

Dubai Dental Hospital is Back!

The Dubai Dental Hospital (DDH), MBRU's clinical affiliate, had to pause their services due to the pandemic. As of June, when the authorities announced that dental clinics can reopen clinics, DDH has resumed its operation and is currently accepting patients. DDH alongside the Hamdan Bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine (HBMCDM) have issued a training program for their staff on safe practices that must be carried out during operations. The training program was delivered to different teams around HBMCDM and DDH to ensure the applicability of the current safe practices at the Hospital.

Dubai Dental Hospital is located in Dubai Healthcare City, for more information please click [here](#).

**We are
OPEN**

Saturday, Sunday & Tuesday: 9AM to 9PM
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9AM to 6PM
Friday: Closed



مستشفى
دبي للأسنان
Dubai Dental
HOSPITAL

Come visit us at The Al Maktoum Medical Library, starting Sunday, August 9th

- ✓ Over 11,000 e-journals
- ✓ Over 3,000 core medical texts
- ✓ Over 10,000 e-books
- ✓ Over 24 databases & e-resources



We would love to hear from you. Please get in touch:

✉ +971 04 383 8802

☎ library@mbru.ac.ae

🌐 To visit our website please click [here](#).

SUMMER OPENING HOURS

Sunday - Thursday

8.00AM – 4.00PM

Saturdays, Fridays and Public Holidays
Closed

The logo consists of a stack of three papers in shades of yellow and orange. The top paper is white and features the text 'Research @ MBRU' in a green, sans-serif font. The background of the entire page is a light blue gradient with a faint image of a scientist in a white lab coat and blue gloves looking through a microscope.

Research @ MBRU

MBRU has Published more than 400 Peer-reviewed Publications

MBRU aims to become a global hub for innovative and integrated healthcare education and research at the service of humanity.

Research is one of the key pillars of the University's innovative strategy known as the 411 strategy.

According to SCOPUS, the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, MBRU's overall research performance and impact has exceeded the national average in terms of impact and quality in several indicators; the international cooperation rate at the University reached 82% (national average: 67%), publications in top 10% journals rate reached 28% (national average: 21%), and the academic-corporate collaboration rate reached 10% (national average: 3%).

Since its establishment in 2014, MBRU has published more than 400 peer-reviewed publications in world-renowned journals in medicine and dentistry, including Nature Neuroscience, Scientific Reports, and the British Dental Journal. The publications varied in topics from genomics to public health.

MBRU has secured an excess of AED 13.5 Million in internal and external research grant funding.

Returning for its third year in a row, the MBRU-ALMahmeed Collaborative Research Award has begun its grant application process for outstanding research proposals in health, medical and biomedical sciences. The Award's grant, which totals AED300,000 for laboratory-based projects and AED150,000 for non-laboratory projects, will be assigned to proposals that contribute to basic, translational, clinical and public health research with priority to cancer, biologic, mental health, and cardiometabolic disease research including diabetes and obesity.

Pioneering Research

- Researchers at MBRU under the supervision of Dr. Mohammed Uddin, Assistant Professor of Genetics at the College of Medicine, succeeded in recording the first whole genome sequencing of an Emirati boy with an autism spectrum disorder.
- MBRU conducted the first full genome sequencing of COVID-19 in the UAE, as part of a collaborative research study between the University and the Dubai Health Authority and the Genomics Centre at Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital.

Describe **MBRU** in one word



Emboldens
- Iyad Hussein

Home
- Alaa Azayem



Family
- Mustafa Abdulla

Here's what a few of
our students, faculty
& staff had to say...



Hope
- Hanan Al Suwaidi



Home
- Farah Ennab



Family
- Nujood Al Khloofi



THE WORD WIZARDS

Razan S Abusabha
Safia Benbrahim

THE CREATIVES

Glendon Potato
Mark Mones

A special thank you to everyone who has contributed and made our newsletter possible.

We are happy to hear from you, please send us your suggestions, or story submissions at:
MBRUcommunications@mbru.ac.ae

#MBRU

