



دبي الصحة  
DUBAI HEALTH

ISSUE 19 December 2023

# نحن دبي الصحة We are Dubai Health

Launched on 11.11 by  
HH Hamdan bin Mohammed

# MBRU360

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# Hamdan bin Mohammed approves the new brand identity for 'Dubai Health'

At 11.11 am on 11/11/23, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, took to social media platform X to announce the new brand identity for 'Dubai Health', the emirate's first integrated academic health system that seeks to enhance the quality of patient care in the city.

The new identity encapsulates essential pillars that underscore collaborative teamwork, aiming to consolidate Dubai's leadership in advancing healthcare excellence across the domains of health, education and research.

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed directed the transformation of Dubai into a leading global model for advancing human health by providing highly efficient medical services and adhering to the best international practices in healthcare. He also underscored the significance of enhancing the academic aspect of the healthcare system to achieve the desired outcomes for the sector in the next phase.

The **Dubai Health** brand mark echoes the arches that welcome all at Dubai Health.

The central arch represents Care, flanked by Learning and Discovery – with all three supported by the foundation of Giving.

The central arch is a symbolic representation of our empathetic guardianship and limitless potential.

Through the integration of these four missions, Dubai aligns with leading academic health systems worldwide, enhancing patient outcomes and fostering accessibility and sustainability within its healthcare sector.



**Hamdan bin Mohammed** ✓

@HamdanMohammed



Guided by [@HHSkMohd](#)'s vision, Dubai is witnessing an exciting new milestone in the transformation of its healthcare sector with the launch of the new corporate identity of [@dubaihealthae](#), the emirate's first integrated academic health system that seeks to enhance the quality of patient care. Driven by the motto 'Patient First', Dubai Health encompasses 6 hospitals, 26 outpatient medical service centres, 20 medical fitness centres as well as [@MBRUniversity](#) and [@aljaliluae](#). The initiative aims to create a global model for patient-centred healthcare by providing world-class medical services for citizens, residents and visitors.



**His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Health Board of Directors, said:**

*// The new brand identity builds on Dubai's robust healthcare system and is a significant step towards shaping a new paradigm of excellence for the sector.*

"The healthcare sector is the cornerstone of the wellbeing of our communities and pivotal to realizing our vision of a world-class healthcare system. We are dedicated to continually enhancing Dubai's health system and helping it evolve with a transformative care model poised to tangibly enhance community health and shape the future of healthcare in Dubai and beyond. Strengthening the sustainability and resilience of our health sector is integral to achieving the objectives outlined in the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33."

#### **Dubai Health – Dubai's integrated academic health system**

As the first academic health system in the city, 'Dubai Health' is strongly committed to providing the best outcomes for patients through evidence-based care. 'Dubai Health' oversees six hospitals, 26 ambulatory health centers and 20 medical fitness centers. The Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU) and Al Jalila Foundation also operate under the umbrella of 'Dubai Health'.

**His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice Chairman of the Dubai**

**Health Board of Directors, said:** "Dubai Health' underscores our commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of the community in Dubai. Academic health systems worldwide have consistently demonstrated an elevated standard of patient care by seamlessly integrating knowledge, people and capabilities. The world's top 10 ranked hospitals are affiliated with renowned medical schools and universities within academic health systems. Through the integration of care, learning, discovery and giving, 'Dubai Health' aligns with global best practices, harnessing the transformative power of an integrated academic health system for the emirate."

#### **Dubai Health – Patient First Promise**

'Dubai Health's' primary value is 'Patient First', which encompasses a dedication to delivering high-quality care, ensuring patient safety and promoting a positive patient experience.

**Dr. Amer Sharif said:** "We are dedicated to achieving integration of the health system through the new corporate identity, encompassing care, learning, discovery and giving, with the aim of positioning 'Dubai Health' as a global benchmark in patient care and health outcomes. This marks a new phase in realizing the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to consolidate Dubai's position as a leading global healthcare destination.

"Our mission of integration serves as an engine for innovation, dedicated to the patient. We

believe that through instilling this transformative mindset and uniting as one system we can advance health to new heights of patient-centric excellence. The new corporate identity reflects our vision to contribute to Dubai's pursuit of a sustainable, knowledge-based economy, supporting the growth and performance of the health sector," Dr. Sharif said.

Dr. Sharif added:

*// In the ever-progressing field of medicine and health sciences, continuous learning is pivotal.*

"At the heart of our academic health system is a commitment to ensure that we are well-versed in the latest medical discoveries, technological breakthroughs and progressive best practices. This scholarly-driven ethos not only advances the healthcare field but also enhances the care received by our patients."

#### **Unified Vision**

During the press conference, Dr. Sharif explained that the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) is responsible for ensuring a high-quality healthcare system in the emirate. This is achieved by organizing and developing necessary policies and legislation to safeguard public health, enhance the standard of living, and introduce a health strategy geared towards enabling Dubai to meet its future needs.

On the other hand, 'Dubai Health', with its primary commitment to enhancing human health and a dedicated focus on improving the patient experience within the healthcare sector, assumes the responsibilities of establishing global standards grounded in scientific evidence for patient care.

*It aims to enhance health outcomes through rigorous scientific research and bring about a transformative shift in education by refining the patient journey and preparing qualified professionals to meet future requirements.*

Additionally, it emphasizes the significance of health endowment due to its impact on supporting health and preserving individual lives.



Dr. Sharif noted that the new brand identity of 'Dubai Health', along with its future vision, aligns with and complements the Dubai Health Authority's efforts to strengthen Dubai's standing as a global exemplar in delivering the best healthcare and treatment to patients.

'Dubai Health' provides a spectrum of benefits designed to attract strategic investments in health sciences, foster governance development, enhance operational efficiency, improve healthcare outcomes, build local health capabilities, attract and retain distinguished talent and promote research and innovation.

### **Milestones**

'Dubai Health's' team of over 11,000 professionals collaborate across multidisciplinary teams to provide compassionate, evidence-based care centered on the patient and their families. 'Dubai Health' has attained several milestones, with its hospitals recording over 4.7 million outpatient visits, nearly 350,000 emergency department visits and over 60,000 patient admissions in 2022. Notably, it has drawn in over 1,000 learners from various disciplines worldwide, provided 60 scholarships and 100 research grants and offered a total of 8,686 patients in need medical support.

Since 2016, 'Dubai Health' has also contributed significantly to studies and research, issuing more than 1,114 scientific and clinical research papers. The importance of this research lies in recognizing that individual well-being is a pivotal factor in prosperity and psychological comfort, subsequently impacting productivity and national development. The advancement of the academic healthcare sector stands as a key indicator of a country's progress and the well-being of its citizens.

The Dubai Academic Health Corporation was established as per Law No. (13) of 2021, issued by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Effective 11 November 2023, Dubai Academic Health Corporation will operate under the new brand name 'Dubai Health'.



# Dubai Health Achieves Record Success Securing Medical Residency Training in North American Programs

*"Emirati scholars from the Graduate Medical Education at MBRU have successfully secured training opportunities for medical residency programs in Canada and the US."*

- Naila Ahli - Interventional Radiology - UTHealth, Houston, USA
- Ahmed Sultan Alowais - Internal Medicine - McGill University, Canada
- Noora Hesham AlQassim - Internal Medicine - McGill University, Canada
- Nada Jassem Abdulla - Internal Medicine - McGill University, Canada
- Shamma Saeed AIMheiri - Emergency Medicine - McGill University, Canada
- Mohammed Jamal AlFalasi - Orthopedic Surgery - University of British Columbia, Canada
- Fatma AlAwadhi - Neurology - University of Toronto, Canada
- Mohammed Alomari - Orthopedics & Trauma Surgery - University of Montreal, Canada
- Mohammed Nagdi Taha - Orthopedics & Trauma Surgery - University of Toronto, Canada
- Hind Hassan Mohamed - Ophthalmology - McGill University, Canada
- Sara AlKhaja - General Surgery - University of British Columbia, Canada,
- Yousef Abdulkhaleq Dhuhair - Foot & Ankle Surgery - Gelenk Zentrum, Rhein-Main, Germany
- Afra Ali Alyassi - Molecular Genetics University of Leicester, United Kingdom



Dubai Health announced that 100% of its Emirati scholars from the Graduate Medical Education at MBRU have successfully secured training opportunities for medical residency programs in Canada and the US. This notable achievement was facilitated by the Academic Mentorship Program for Physicians, a flagship initiative under the Deanship of Graduate Medical Education at MBRU designed to support trainees in pursuing medical residency training programs in North America.



**Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Deputy CEO and Chief Academic Officer of Dubai Health, and Provost of MBRU, said:** “This is a very special moment for Dubai Health, celebrating the success of our young scholars who are pushing the envelope and getting outside of their comfort zones to pursue their graduate medical education abroad, which is a testament to the caliber of medical education, mentorship, and clinical training that is distinctively offered at MBRU, the University within Dubai’s first integrated academic health system. This success not only reflects the individual achievements of our young doctors but also underscores Dubai Health’s commitment to

empowering local medical talent, ensuring that they receive opportunities to excel on the global stage.”

**Professor Sulaiman AlEmran, Dean of Graduate**

*// I’m very proud of these young doctors and very proud of the graduate medical education team that is supporting them.*

**Medical Education at MBRU, said:** “We are honored by the accomplishments of our Emirati scholars and MBRU’s new Academic Mentorship Program for Physicians. These achievements reflect MBRU’s commitment to supporting trainees in their learning journey, aligning with Dubai Health’s goal to cultivate local medical talent in various medical fields,”

“The Deanship of Graduate Medical Education at MBRU implemented a standardized program for academic mentorship, offering comprehensive support to medical trainees aspiring to enroll in medical residency programs in Canada and the US. The initiative included meticulous review and optimization of trainees’ academic performances and resumes, coupled with informative workshops addressing application requirements and refining personal interview skills. The program facilitated communication between trainees and prominent Canadian and American institutions, introducing them to Dubai Health, and provided diligent follow-up throughout all application stages and requirements,” he added.

A total of 11 trainees who participated in the academic mentorship program, successfully meeting all admission requirements and criteria for prestigious

Canadian and American institutions, including the successful completion of medical licensing exams. The Deanship of Graduate Medical Education oversaw the review process of all documents, submitting them to numerous universities in Canada and the US in collaboration with UAE attachés.

Each applicant excelled in meeting the admission requirements, including personal interviews. Successful candidates have been accepted into several medical residency programs, such as internal medicine, emergency medicine, neurology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, and diagnostic radiology. Notable institutions welcoming MBRU trainees include the University of Texas in the US, as well as Canadian universities such as McGill University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta, the University of Toronto, McMaster University, and Queen’s University.

This unprecedented accomplishment of securing 11 training opportunities across Canadian and American institutions is a pinnacle achievement in the UAE’s healthcare landscape. Moreover, this success aligns seamlessly with Dubai Health’s commitment to investing in developing national healthcare talents, fostering excellence in healthcare services, and championing learning and discovery to impact lives.



# MBRU granted Institutional Accreditation from the National Institute for Health Specialties

The National Institute for Health Specialties (NIHS), the national body responsible for overseeing the professional development of the health workforce sector, has awarded MBRU full institutional accreditation after fulfilling the standards for postgraduate residency and fellowship programs.

**Dr. Mohammed Al Houqani, Secretary General of NIHS, said,** "The NIHS is pleased to award MBRU a certificate of institutional accreditation. As one of the foremost higher education institutions in medicine and healthcare, the university has played a prominent role in elevating health education standards and graduating exceptional healthcare cadres."

"MBRU demonstrated several prominent positive factors that led to its qualification for the institutional accreditation certificate. These factors include governance of medical education and the availability of resources and training environments in its training sites, including Ambulatory Health Centers, Rashid Hospital, Dubai Dental Hospital,



Latifa Hospital, Dubai Hospital, Al Jalila Children's Hospital, and Hatta Hospital," he added.

Dr. Mohammed Al Houqani concluded, "The pediatrics program at Al Jalila Children's Hospital, which includes 60 residents, has been accredited following five key areas: governance, training environment, residents/fellows, faculty members, and continuous improvement and innovation. These areas adhere to high-level professional standards that we strive to uphold to enhance the capacity of the health workforce and improve the medical services provided to all residents of the UAE."

**Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Chief Academic Officer of Dubai Health and Provost of MBRU,** emphasized that this remarkable achievement was the culmination of tireless efforts by Dubai Health, represented by MBRU. As Dubai's first academic health system, Dubai Health is steadfast in providing excellent postgraduate medical programs to prepare and develop specialized and qualified local professionals to meet future healthcare demands, aligning with our vision; Together We Advance Health for Humanity.

"The attainment of full institutional accreditation is a pivotal step toward developing more accredited residency and fellowship programs in various medical specialties," added Professor Alawi. "These programs will contribute to preparing a promising generation of future healthcare leaders, aligning with the aspirations of the Dubai government in strengthening the emirate's position as a

prominent and influential hub in the healthcare sector, dedicated to serving all of humanity."

Based at UAEU, the National Institute for Health Specialties (NIHS) was established by a Cabinet decree to enhance the quality of medical education by accrediting hospitals and conducting specialized professional exams in line with the best international standards. Additionally, the institute performs workshops and evaluation visits to introduce accreditation requirements to implement the highest training and evaluation standards. Through these efforts, the institute ensures the improvement and advancement of the medical education system in the country.





# Mediclinic Middle East – MBRU Excellence Awards

The first annual Mediclinic Middle East and MBRU Excellence Awards were held on 14 September. The awards ceremony was a culmination of an academic partnership between the two entities which has been in place since November 2016 and has seen MBRU medical undergraduate students, postgraduate medical residents, and nursing trainees undertake rotations at Mediclinic's hospitals and clinics in Dubai.

These awards recognize the Mediclinic healthcare providers for their contribution towards medical education at MBRU as adjunct faculty. The 'Educator of the Year' awardees for the clinical years 4, 5, and 6 were voted for by the students themselves, who were asked to nominate those educators at Mediclinic who had most impacted their educational journey through the year. 'Star Awards' were also presented to individuals actively involved in facilitating the delivery of medical education. These awards were decided through nominations from the MBRU Phase 3 clinical faculty, Mediclinic Dubai medical directors, hospital directors and nursing directors, in addition to all discipline coordinators and academic coordinators. These awards recognize those who go above and beyond in the pursuit of excellent education and experience for MBRU students.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of The Dr. Edwin Hertzog Outstanding Educator of the Year Award 2022-2023. The winner of this award was chosen by a panel of judges from

Mediclinic and MBRU and recognizes someone who possesses a unique set of qualities and skills that make them highly effective in teaching and guiding aspiring medical professionals. The award was presented by Dr. Edwin Hertzog, the founder of Mediclinic, to Dr. David Curran, Consultant Geriatrician at Mediclinic City Hospital.

Celebrating the occasion, **the CEO of Dubai Health and President of MBRU, Dr. Amer Sharif shared,** "From day one, Mediclinic has been an invaluable ally, wholeheartedly embracing our students in their clinical practice. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Mediclinic International whose resolute belief in our mission has been nothing short of extraordinary. Seven years ago, we entered a partnership united by a set of values and a collective vision to advance health and serve humanity together."

**Hein van Eck, Chief Executive Officer of Mediclinic Middle East, commented,** "The first Mediclinic and



MBRU Excellence Awards is the culmination of a seven-year academic partnership which has seen dozens of medical undergraduates and postgraduates, as well as Nursing postgraduates, complete rotations at Mediclinic facilities in Dubai. It is a great privilege to be able to work together with MBRU to support the UAE's long-term vision of training the next generation of doctors and medical professionals for the challenges posed by a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. The purpose of these awards is to recognize the contribution of those Mediclinic doctors who have helped shape these young people's futures and to thank them for their leadership and passion for teaching. Without them, this groundbreaking academic affiliation would not be possible. I look forward to the continuation of these awards as the relationship between MBRU and Mediclinic continues to go from strength to strength."





# White Coat CEREMONY

In September, MBRU hosted the annual White Coat Ceremony for first-year MBBS students and postgraduate residents with Dubai Health.

May your white coat always be a symbol of commitment to our organization's values – Patient First, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork, Integrity, and Empathy. Wearing this white coat is both an honor and a solemn responsibility, serving as a daily reminder of the profound impact that healthcare professionals can have on the lives of those they serve.





# Campus Highlights

## Healthcare in Simulation Week

In September, the Simulation Team hosted the Simulation Open Day at the Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor Medical Simulation Center, celebrating the Healthcare Simulation Week 2023 (HcSim Week). Colleagues and learners were invited to attend a week of activities, including the SimSnap photo competition and SimUniversity competition, an educational event where teams of students compete in realistic medical scenarios, applying their knowledge and teamwork to solve complex healthcare challenges.

### Congratulations to the winners of the SimUniversity Competition.

- Sara Salim
- Fatma Mustafa Alhashimi
- Ghazal Saeed
- Gunjan Awatramani



Congratulations also to the winners of the SimSnap Competition.

- Bibin Babu – RN, Dubai Hospital
- Hira Salman – Research Assistant, IOL
- Dania Mohammed – COM Student

Healthcare Simulation Week, initiated by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), celebrates professionals use of healthcare simulation to improve the safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of healthcare delivery. The purpose of the society is to serve a global community of practice enhancing the quality of healthcare.





# MBRU Students meet Expedition 69



Dubai Health welcomed the international crew of Expedition 69, the 69th long-duration expedition to the International Space Station (ISS), as part of their UAE tour.

The event took place at MBRU and was attended by Dubai Health team, including students and scientists who had been working closely with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) and Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi on research projects aboard the ISS. Dr. Hanan Al Suwaidi, Chief Business Officer of Dubai Health, who serves as the UAE's first flight surgeon, was reunited with the crew.





# Integrating Learning and Care

Rooted in the principles of simulation-based learning, the Simulation-Based Advanced Trauma Course (SATC), hosted its second edition at our Simulation Center with 18 participants from across Dubai Health. The course is designed to elevate the skills and preparedness of healthcare providers in managing complex trauma cases. SATC integrates simulation technologies with evidence-based practices to create an immersive and training environment. SATC equips participants with the expertise and confidence needed to navigate the complexities of trauma care, ultimately leading to improved patient outcomes in real-world emergency situations.





# Inaugural Cadaveric Hands-On Workshops for Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology residents

Our inaugural Cadaveric Hands-On Workshops provided an invaluable opportunity for our neurosurgery and otolaryngology residents to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical expertise. These immersive experiences allow them to familiarize themselves with anatomical intricacies, fine-tune their surgical skills, gain confidence and navigate potential challenges, ultimately equipping them to deliver safer, more effective patient care.





# Design for Health Bootcamp

Design for Health is an immersive program dedicated to exploring innovative design solutions that address real-life healthcare challenges. Over the course of three days, medical, design and engineering students engaged in a series of workshops all aimed at fostering a deep understanding of the intersection between design and healthcare.

16 students from the American University of Sharjah, Design & Innovation University, and MBRU presented approaches, processes, techniques and tools that have the potential to enhance the healthcare landscape and improve patient outcomes.





# Where learning and discovery converge!

## Open Day at the Al Maktoum Medical Library

Open Day at our esteemed medical library was presided over by Dr. Manal Al Halabi, Dean of Hamdan Bin Mohammed College of Dental Medicine, setting the stage for a day of games and enlightenment. One of the highlights of this event was a talk entitled "How researchers can use different Scopus metrics to select the right journal" empowered researchers with the tools they need to make informed decisions about their academic work.

This year, the Al Maktoum Medical Library at MBRU is pleased to introduce the Writing Center to help students, researchers, and all library patrons enhance their academic writing skills.

### Key Services:

- One-to-one consultation
- English language support
- Journal selection
- Journal-specific writing styles
- Open access journals
- Publishing discounts
- Publishing support
- Training and outreach programs
- Writing and publishing workshops
- Writing resources









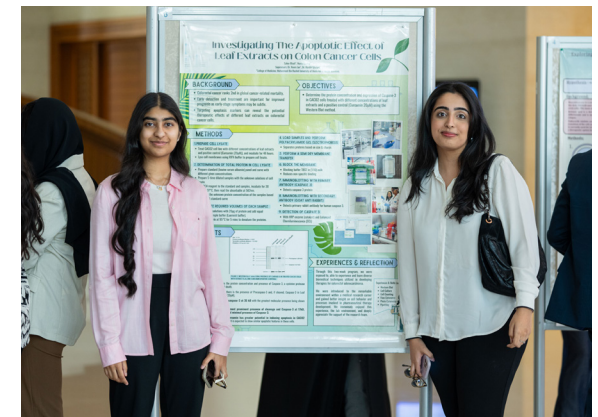
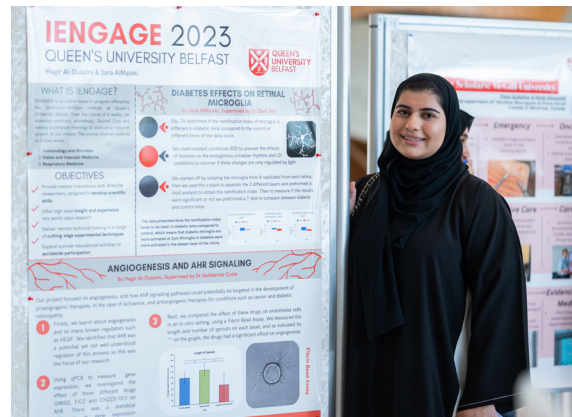
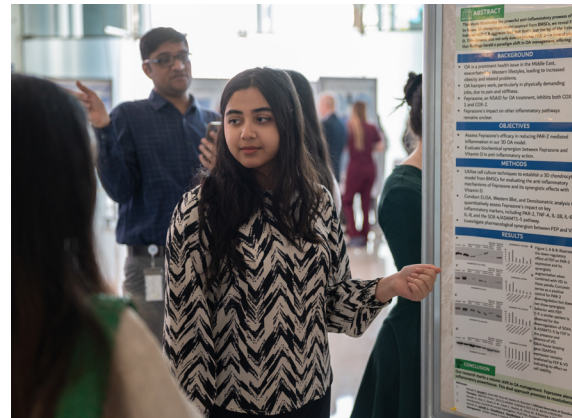
# Student Life

## Summer Scholar's winners

In October, we officially wrapped up our Summer Scholar's program with poster presentations from our participants. Congratulations to our winners!

- Laboratory Research winner: MBRU, Dr. Reem Jan's Lab
- Field Research and Structured Program winner: Queen's University Belfast, IENGAGE Program
- Clinical Observership and Community Service winner: Rashid Hospital, Group 2
- MBRU Family Choice Award winner: MBRU, Dr. Yaj Banerjee's Lab
- MBRU Student Choice Award: Medical University of Graz

Offered internationally and in the UAE, the Summer Scholars Program is a dynamic co-curricular initiative designed to provide students with diverse opportunities for personal and academic growth. Through this program, our learners engaged in research, clinical observerships, community service, and explore their creative potential through arts and innovation experiences.





# The Summer Scholars research project

**Medical students' perceptions of large language learning models (LLMs): a multinational cross-sectional study at Global Remote Research Scholars Program (GRRSP).**

The primary aim of the study was to investigate medical students' understanding of LLMs across ten medical schools. The survey was designed on Google Forms to explore the current knowledge regarding the application of LLMs in healthcare, research, and medical education. Within three weeks, the survey garnered a total of 1,180 responses from 10 medical schools in seven countries: India, USA, UAE, Pakistan, Ecuador, Mauritius, and Ethiopia.

This research is the first of its kind to evaluate the perceptions of medical students on Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT at a global level!

Dr. Abhishek Kashyap (MBBS, University of Mauritius), Mauritius representative says, "Our study on medical students' perceptions of large language models (LLMs) in healthcare holds utmost relevance since evolutions of LLMs have fastened after the ChatGPT explosion in recent months. AI holds the potential to transform medical practice and education by aiding with information retrieval, clinical decision support, and summary of critical clinical data".

"Empowering the future of healthcare requires understanding the perspectives of those shaping it. Our study aims to capture medical



Written by: Amina Mujahid, Year 2 MBBS student  
From left to right: Fatma Aljoakar, year 2; Amina Mujahid, year 3;  
Faiza Ejaz, year 5; and Sameer Khan, year 2.

students' viewpoints about the potential impact of large language models used in healthcare. Your perception matters, and your input can shape the future of healthcare innovation." said Dr. Hans Mautong (MD, Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo), Ecuador representative.

*// As an MBRU Alumni and research faculty at GRRSP, it is a privilege to be a part of providing new opportunities for MBRU students, which will help shape the future of cutting-edge research,*

Said Dr. Faisal Nawaz (MBBS, MBRU), MBRU alumnus and UAE senior representative. He

continued "This study has the potential to influence medical curricula across the world to include digital health education for our future healthcare leaders."

"This was a great experience to come up with a study idea, write the protocol, design the questionnaire, and run the response operation on a daily basis," shared Faiza Kader, Year 4 MBBS student at MBRU. "The opportunity to lead a global project from the UAE would only be possible because of resources and mentoring provided by the University and its alumni."

The team would like to thank research supervisors Dr. Rahul Kashyap, Dr. Faisal Nawaz, and Dr. Zara Arshad for their valuable mentorship and guidance in this project.



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to our students Maryam Alabdullah (Y3-CoM) and Sohaib Darwish (Y4-CoM) on presenting their research poster "Preadipocyte Effects on Fibroblast Proliferation: Exploring Implications for Asthma" at the 5th Internal Medicine Update Conference, which took place at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi from 13-15 October. The research was conducted under the MBRU Summer Scholars Program under the guidance of Drs Saba Al Heialy and Nour Jalaieddine.



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كليفلاند كلينك أبوظبي  
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi  
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5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNAL MEDICINE UPDATE  
CONFERENCE 2023  
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## Preadipocyte Effects on Fibroblast Proliferation: Exploring Implications for Asthma

<sup>1</sup>Maryam Alabdullah, <sup>2</sup>Sohaib Darwish, <sup>3</sup>Nour Jalaieddine and Saba Al Heialy  
<sup>1</sup>Mohammed Bin Rashid University Of Medicine and Health Sciences  
(Sohaib.Darwish@students.clinic.ae, 02-264 9222)

### Background

- Adipocyte-like cells known as lipofibroblasts have recently been found in the lungs.
- Studies indicate that obesity exacerbates asthma severity.
- It remains unclear if obese adipocyte impact on fibrosis in asthma begins as early as preadipocyte stage.

### Methodology

### Objectives

Investigate the influence of preadipocyte conditioned-media on fibroblast proliferation.

### Hypothesis

We hypothesized that preadipocyte-conditioned media will increase fibroblast proliferation, with a more pronounced effect observed in asthmatic fibroblasts, especially when influenced by obese preadipocytes.

### Results

- Preadipocyte-conditioned media had an evident effect on fibroblast growth.
- Addition of lean preadipocyte conditioned media yielded significantly higher fibroblast proliferation in normal fibroblasts.
- Obese preadipocyte-conditioned media reduced proliferation rate of normal fibroblasts.

### Conclusion

Data indicates that adipocyte affect on fibroblasts manifest as early as the preadipocyte stage. This data can shed light on the implication of obesity in the development of asthma pathogenesis. The effect of preadipocytes on the fibroblasts requires further investigation.



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Richa Naveed, who has been selected for the Pediatric Cardiac Genomics Consortium (PCGC) & Cardiovascular Development Data Resource Center (CDDRC) Fellowship award. The award will contribute US\$70k towards Dr. Richa's research on Consanguinity and the genetic architecture of congenital heart disease (CHD). Although CHD predominates in children, our understanding of the underlying genetic factors remains limited.

"I will identify the type of CHD significantly associated with consanguineous families and explore the genomics and cellular diversity in consanguineous populations highlighting the known and novel variants. I hope that the proposed study will provide new insights into CHD cellular and genomic architecture, as well as build the foundation for identifying therapeutic targets."







# **DUBAI HEALTH**

*H I G H L I G H T S*

# Dubai Health signs strategic partnership with Emirates Group

Dubai Health and Emirates Group signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) underscoring a commitment to enhance the patient experience and embed a culture of compassionate hospitality within healthcare.

In the presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Health Board of Directors, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group; and His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Health Board of Directors, the MoU was signed by Adel Al

Redha, Chief Operating Officer of Emirates, and Dr. Amer Al Sharif, CEO of Dubai Health and President of the Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU).

The MoU is testament to Dubai's constant efforts to improve public healthcare systems as it strives to transform itself into a global hub for medical and life sciences and a destination for health and medical services while boosting medical education, research and scientific innovation.

**His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed said:** "Emirates is renowned for its world-class hospitality, and this partnership between Dubai Health and Emirates Group further supports Dubai Health's transformative journey towards becoming a leader in patient-centricity. This strategic partnership represents a significant step forward in fostering excellence, innovation, and synergy between the two organizations."





**His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed said:** "The Emirates Group and Dubai Health partnership is grounded in reciprocity, with Dubai Health as Dubai's first integrated academic health system uniquely placed to support Emirates' mission through research and development.

"The partnership spans multi-disciplinary functions, underpinning a commitment to knowledge exchange and shared best practices. It also emphasizes joint efforts in advancing the career development and training of UAE nationals, underscoring a commitment to local talent."

**HE Al Redha said:** "With a shared commitment to excellence, Emirates and Dubai Health joined forces to foster a culture of hospitality in healthcare. With our partnership, we strive to bring the essence of Emirates' signature customer service to every interaction, creating an environment where an elevated patient journey flourishes alongside medical excellence."

**HE Dr. Sharif said:** "As the first integrated academic health system in Dubai, we believe in enriching the healthcare experience by prioritizing patient-centric care, ensuring that compassion and medical excellence are at the core of the patients' journey. Through our partnership with one of the world leaders in hospitality, we aim to create an ecosystem where patients feel valued, supported, and confident in their healthcare choices, ultimately elevating the standard of care in Dubai in line with our 'Patient First' promise."



# Child Fund Launch

In November, Dubai Health launched 'The Child Fund' by Al Jalila Foundation, in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Health Board of Directors. The pioneering annual charitable fund amounting to AED50 million will be dedicated to providing essential medical treatment for 3,000 children every year at Al Jalila Children's Hospital, the UAE's first and only dedicated children's hospital.

The announcement was made at Al Jalila Children's Hospital in the presence of Her Excellency Dr. Raja Easa Saleh Al Gurg, Chairperson of Al Jalila Foundation Board of Directors and Dubai Health Board Member; His Excellency Dr. Amer Sharif, CEO of Dubai Health and President of the MBRU, Dr. Amer Al Zarooni, Chief Executive Officer of Al Jalila Foundation, Dr. Abdulla Al Khayat, Chief Executive Officer of Al Jalila Children's Hospital, in addition to a number of officials and major donors. During his tour of Al Jalila Children's Hospital, HH Sheikh Mansoor visited a group of young patients and was briefed on the hospital's specialty services that underscore its commitment to prioritising child-friendly healthcare focused on quality and excellence.

**His Highness Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum** conveyed his gratitude to all donors and contributors who play a pivotal role in upholding the highest standards of excellence within the health system in Dubai. Their collective efforts contribute significantly to providing the

best forms of healthcare, particularly for children. This commitment aligns with the enduring values of giving and compassion that have consistently defined the people of the UAE and its society, His Highness said.

Sheikh Mansoor said: "The launch of 'The Child Fund' underscores our steadfast dedication to ensuring comprehensive care for children, which is a paramount focus within Dubai's health system. We consider it our fundamental responsibility to uphold the highest standards of care for them, as they symbolise the foundation of our future. Through such community initiatives, our goal is to extend support and deliver treatment to the largest number of children, with the ultimate aim of enabling them to lead normal lives."

'The Child Fund' will serve as a dedicated children's charity programme designed to raise funds for providing essential, life-saving medical support to children in need. Beyond being a beacon of hope for children and their families in the UAE, the initiative aims to cultivate a culture of giving within the community, ensuring that every child receives the care they need to thrive.

**Her Excellency Dr. Raja Al Gurg** highlighted Al Jalila Foundation's role in supporting Dubai Health's philanthropic mission. She said: "For over a decade, Al Jalila Foundation has made a significant impact through its A'awen patient treatment programme, touching the lives of thousands of patients and their families across the UAE. With this new fund, we pledge to extend the reach of our care and provide

renewed hope for a brighter and more promising tomorrow for even more children. 'The Child Fund' reaffirms our heartfelt commitment to securing a healthy future for our children. Today, we proudly recognise the unwavering dedication and generosity of our donors and supporters who, together, united by care and compassion, are lighting the path to healing young lives."

**Dr. Abdulla Al Khayat, said:** "The Child Fund' goes beyond just providing essential medical treatment for children in need, it is a beacon of hope for families and their loved ones facing life-threatening illnesses. Through this initiative our dedicated team of doctors and physicians can extend life-saving care to those who cannot afford access to necessary treatments."

"We are eternally grateful for the opportunities 'The Child Fund' will provide to our doctors and physicians, aligning with Al Jalila Children's unwavering dedication to excellence in treating young patients. The Fund, reflecting our 'Patient First' promise, will enable us to extend care to children of all ages, empowering them to step into a more promising tomorrow," said Dr. Al Khayat.



## 'The Giving Wall'

During the launch, 'The Giving Wall' was unveiled as a tribute to the donors and contributors that have impacted children's lives through their support to Al Jalila Foundation. They were invited to sign a pledge in support of the AED50 million annual fund dedicated to providing essential medical care for 3,000 children per year. Notable partners include the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment; Easa Saleh Al Gurg Charity Foundation; Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department; Awqaf Dubai; Albatha Holding; IFFCO; and Tarahum.

'The Child Fund' builds on Al Jalila Foundation's impactful history of philanthropic achievements in supporting a number of healthcare programmes in medical education, research and patient care transforming thousands of lives. The Foundation has supported medical treatment to over 8,600 patients, including 30% children, suffering from life-threatening conditions including cancer, cardiovascular disease and other chronic illnesses, underscoring its ongoing commitment to transforming lives of those in need in the community.

For more information on 'The Child Fund', please visit:  
<https://www.aljalilafoundation.ae/the-child-fund>



# New Faces @ MBRU



**Mohammad Aburaidah**  
Staff Nurse Research  
Genome Lab



**Nafjah Abushelaibi**  
Senior Officer Talent Management  
Human Resources



**Donia Ahmad**  
Clinical Tutor  
College of Medicine



**Maher Al Sakkaf**  
Manager HSE  
Facility Management and HSE



**Fatma Almheiri**  
Senior Laboratory Technologist  
Research and Graduate Studies



**Sultan Alsuwaidi**  
Senior Officer Talent Management  
Human Resources



# New Faces @ MBRU



**Sara Amiri**  
Senior Administrator  
College of Medicine



**Bipin Balan**  
Bioinformatician  
Genome Lab



**Carole Dagher**  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine



**Dib Ghadry**  
Technician ITAV  
Information Technology



**Alexander Giddey**  
Scientist  
Genome Lab



**Angela Gonzalez**  
Lecturer Orthodontics  
Hamdan Bin Mohammed College of  
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Associate Professor  
College of Medicine



**Lisa Jackson**  
Assistant Professor Family Medicine  
College of Medicine



**Sara Lajam**  
Senior Administrator  
College of Medicine



**Maryam Mansoori**  
Senior Administrator  
College of Medicine



**Zeinab Mohamdi**  
Staff Nurse Research  
Genome Lab





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We are happy to hear from you, please send us your suggestions, or story submissions at

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