77 RESEARCH CHAIRS

KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

جامعة الملك سعود
King Saud University

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Biodiversity and Bioreservation Research Chair Organizes a Scientific Workshop on Digital PCR Technology

The Biodiversity and Bioreservation Research Chair organized a specialized scientific workshop on Digital Polymerase Chain Reaction (Digital PCR) on (22/01/2026). The workshop was organized under the supervision of Prof. Mysoon Al-Ansari, Chair Supervisor, with the participation of the research chair members.

The workshop witnessed a notable attendance from students, researchers, and staff of King Saud University, in addition to participants from external institutions, reflecting the growing interest in advanced molecular technologies and their role in supporting scientific research.

The workshop was delivered through two integrated scientific sessions. The first session included an introductory scientific lecture aimed at simplifying the concepts of digital PCR technology and explaining its principles, mechanisms, and different methodologies. The second session was dedicated to a practical demonstration, during which the digital PCR instrument was introduced, its operational workflow was demonstrated, and its technical capabilities were highlighted.

The workshop aimed to provide a simplified scientific explanation of digital PCR technology and its various methods, highlight its research applications in molecular studies and biodiversity research, and showcase its advanced technical advantages, particularly its high accuracy and sensitivity compared to conventional PCR techniques.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the scientific lecture and hands-on demonstration contributed to enhancing participants' scientific knowledge, while the positive interaction and active participation confirmed the success of the workshop in achieving its objectives. This reflects the Biodiversity and Bioreservation Research Chair's commitment to supporting advanced research technologies and strengthening scientific capacity.

Conclusion of the Specialized Training Program in the Pediatric Gastroenterology Unit with the Participation of the Celiac Research Chair

Within the framework of scientific and training cooperation between research and medical entities, the Prince Abdullah bin Khaled Celiac Disease Research Chair, in collaboration with the Pediatric Gastroenterology Unit, celebrated the graduation of trainees after completing a three-year specialized training program at the Pediatric Gastroenterology Unit, which included intensive clinical and practical training on diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy procedures.

The ceremony was attended by several leaders from the Research Chair and the Unit, led by Prof. Mohammed Al-Muzan, Head of the Pediatric Gastroenterology Unit Prof. Ahmed Al-Sarkhi, Training Program Supervisor Dr. Abdullah Al-Masoud, Dr. Mona Al-Asmi, and Prof. Dr. Asaad Asiri, supervisor of the chair, along with a distinguished group of graduating physicians.

During the ceremony, the graduates were honored in recognition of their efforts and successful completion of the program requirements. Honorees

included Dr. Montaser Al-Mansouri from the Southern Region (Al-Baha City) and Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Rais from the Eastern Region (Dammam City).

At the conclusion of the event, attendees expressed their pride in the high quality of the training outcomes, emphasizing the importance of such programs in preparing specialized medical professionals who contribute to the advancement of healthcare and research services. They also wished the graduates continued success in their professional careers.

Celiac Disease Research Chair Organizes the 14th Middle East Session on Wheat Sensitivity and Gastrointestinal Disorders

Celiac Disease Research Chair organized the 14th Middle East Session to advance research and clinical practices in celiac disease and related gastrointestinal disorders.

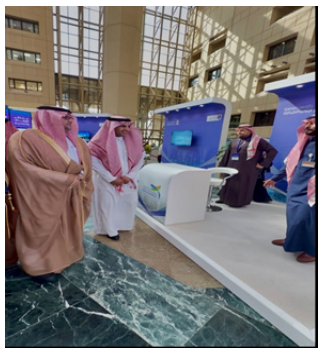
The conference featured distinguished experts from leading international and regional institutions, including Prof. Harald Winter (Harvard University, USA), Prof. Osvaldo (Great Ormond Street Hospital, UK), Dr. Tossos (King's College, UK), Dr. Jonathan Hend (Australia), Dr. Kitja Korunto (University of Wisconsin, USA), and Prof. Shelby (Iraq). They presented the latest research, diagnostic methods, and therapeutic approaches in celiac disease.

The program covered advances in diagnosis, management of complications, treatment and nutritional strategies, and complex clinical cases, fostering scientific discussion and research collaboration among participants.

The course was accredited by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties for 8 educational hours, highlighting its quality and importance for continuing medical education.

At the conclusion, Prof. Asaad Asiri, Chair supervisor, thanked university leadership and the organizing committee for their support, emphasizing its role in maintaining the Chair's regional and international excellence. He highlighted the Chair's contribution to research, international collaboration, and improving patient care, aligning with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 for advancing the health and research sectors.

The Vice Deanship of Scientific Research for Research Chairs Participates in the Endowment and Education Forum



The Vice Deanship of Scientific Research for Research Chairs at King Saud University participated in the Endowments and Education Forum, a scientific and developmental platform that promotes integration between the endowments sector and educational institutions while supporting the sustainability of education and scientific research.

The Vice Deanship's participation highlighted its role in advancing scientific research, showcasing the impact of research chairs, and exploring sustainable partnerships with endowment entities in line with national development goals.

During the forum, the University President and the Vice President for Educational and Academic Affairs visited the Deanship's pavilion. They were briefed on key initiatives, research chair mechanisms, partnership models, and major achievements that enhance community service and the quality of research and educational outcomes.

The University President praised the Vice Deanship's efforts in promoting scientific research and stressed the importance of expanding partnerships to support sustainability and strengthen the University's research standing. This participation reflects the Vice Deanship's commitment to active engagement, strategic partnerships, innovation, and achieving sustainable societal impact.

Research Chairs:
The "National Lab" for Developing Researchers and Qualifying Innovation Leaders

How Do Research Chairs Become a Launching Platform for Developing the Skills of Graduate Students and Researchers

Beyond Scientific Publishing

Research chairs are not just platforms for producing prestigious studies and research; they play a fundamental role in building the knowledge-based individual. They have evolved from traditional academic units into high-level professional incubators, primarily aimed at developing the skills of researchers and graduate students and enabling them to transition from academic reception to scientific production in line with competitive international standards.

Systematic Practice and Breaking Theorizing Barriers

Graduate students often face the challenge of moving from theoretical concepts to practical application in the field or laboratory. This is where the research chair plays a crucial role as a real-world environment, allowing students to participate in teams that tackle actual problems and requiring them to master modern research tools, from advanced statistical analysis to the use of sophisticated laboratory equipment. This type of learning by doing makes a significant difference in the quality of theses, enabling them to go beyond graduation requirements and become research work suitable for publication in the most prestigious ISI-ranked scientific journals.

Engagement with Global and Local Expertise

Health initiatives were the most prominent community activities, including: "A major benefit of working within a research chair is "knowledge integration." Students interact directly with world-class scientists, enhancing both their technical skills and scientific mindset. They learn the ethics of critique, question formulation, and presenting results at international conferences, preparing them to become scientific ambassadors for their country.

Developing Future Skills: The Researcher as a Leader

Research chairs also develop essential "soft skills" alongside scientific expertise. Researchers learn to manage projects, work in multidisciplinary teams, and meet strict deadlines. These cumulative experiences transform them from "study executors" into "knowledge leaders," equipped with the leadership and innovation skills needed to lead national research centers and major development projects.

Conclusion: National Leadership

The true value of research chairs is realized when graduate students and researchers become distinguished experts in their fields. By empowering these individuals, a research chair not only enriches scientific knowledge but also lays the foundation for national leadership. Homegrown minds, trained to the highest standards within the university, develop national solutions and become the driving force behind a knowledge-based economy for a promising future.

International Days

Saudi Founding Day-February 22

The Founding Day, February 22,1727 CE, is the day for the founding of the first Saudi State.

It highlights the history going back nearly three centuries, rooted in a rich heritage and deep-seated traditions. It celebrates pride in the continuity of the Saudi state and its restoration to the strength of its roots and leaders and achievements of the Kingdom's leaders, the strong bond between citizens and their leadership, and the enduring values of unity, stability, and security.

Saudi Founding Day and its role in supporting scientific research and innovation

Saudi Founding Day marks the establishment of the First Saudi State in 1727 by Imam Muhammad bin Saud, founded on solid principles of unity and stability. It was not merely a political event; it represented the beginning of a comprehensive cultural journey, with knowledge and education as fundamental pillars for building individuals and developing society.

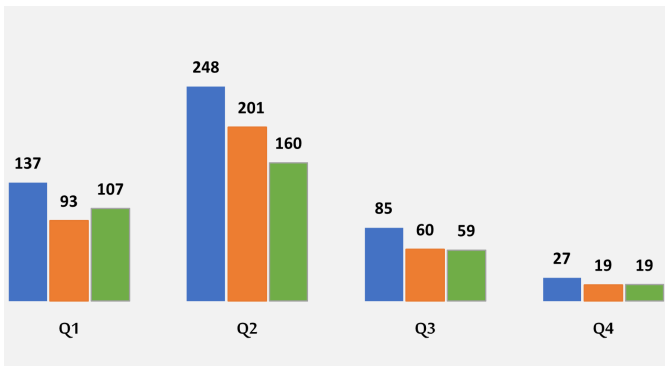
Since its founding, the Saudi state has been closely tied to knowledge, with scientific research supported as a key driver of sustainable development through universities and research centers.

In this context, research chairs represent an advanced model for supporting scientific research by funding specialized studies, attracting distinguished researchers, and fostering partnerships between universities and public and private sectors. Innovation, as a natural outcome of research, is a key pillar of Saudi Vision 2030, reflecting the Kingdom's ongoing commitment to investing in people and building a prosperous, knowledge-based future.

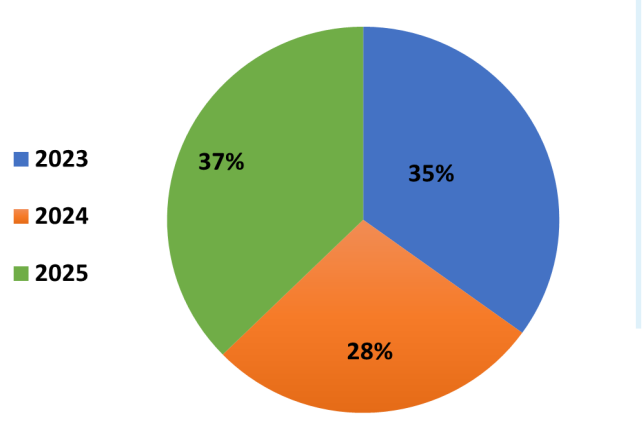
Roots of the Past and Prospects for the Scientific Future

The development of the Saudi state has been linked to scholars and the spread of knowledge. Today, the Kingdom strongly supports scientific research as a tool to face challenges and achieve sustainable development. Universities and research centers are hubs for creativity and knowledge. Research chairs play a key role in funding projects and encouraging research that serves the nation. Innovation is the result of research efforts, supported by the national transformation, turning scientific ideas into practical solutions and competitive products. Founding Day connects the roots of the state with future ambitions and emphasizes that investing in scientific research and innovation is the path to leadership and comprehensive development.

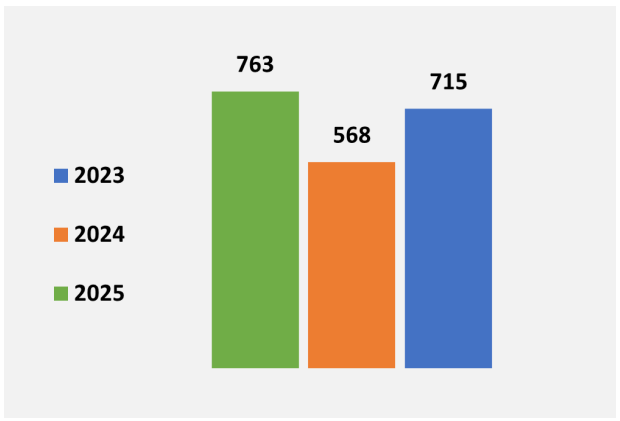
Research Chair Achievements



The total number of research papers according to journal classification



Percentage of scientific papers according to the Web of Science



Number of published research papers

Scientific Inspiring Quote

Thomas Edison

"I have not failed.
I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work"

As:
Each failure brings you one step closer to success.

Why?
Perseverance and faith will always lead you to great achievements.

The Idea that Changed the World

The Discovery of Artificial Intelligence

The concept of artificial intelligence (AI) emerged when scientists questioned whether a machine could think? In 1956, a scientific conference was held at Dartmouth University in the United States, which was the birth of AI.

During this event, scientists proposed the possibility of creating systems that simulate human intelligence such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving.

Advances in computing, mathematics, and big data, along with machine learning, have made artificial intelligence more capable of simulating human learning.

Today, AI is used in medicine, education, translation, and smartphones.

It is the result of ongoing scientific curiosity and long-standing efforts to understand the human mind and imitate it.

A Study by the Chair of Evidence-Based Health Care and Practical Knowledge Application Explains: DeepSeek in Healthcare: **Revealing Opportunities and Steering Challenges of a New Open-Source Artificial Intelligence Frontier**

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) has driven several advancements in healthcare, with large language models (LLMs) such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, and Microsoft's Copilot demonstrating potential in clinical decision support, medical education, and research acceleration. However, their closed-source architecture, high computational costs, and limited adaptability to specialized medical contexts remained key barriers to universal adoption. Now, with the rise of DeepSeek's DeepThink (R1), an open source LLM, gaining prominence since mid-January 2025, new opportunities and challenges emerge for healthcare integration and AI-driven research. Unlike proprietary models, DeepSeek fosters continuous learning by leveraging publicly available open-source datasets, possibly enhancing adaptability to the ever evolving medical knowledge and scientific reasoning. Its transparent, community-driven approach may enable greater customization, regional specialization, and collaboration among data researchers and clinicians.

Additionally, DeepSeek supports offline deployment, addressing some data privacy concerns. Despite these promising advantages, DeepSeek presents ethical and regulatory challenges. Users' data privacy worries have emerged, with concerns about user data retention policies and potential developer access to user generated content without opt-out options. Additionally, when used in healthcare applications, its compliance with China's data-sharing regulations highlights the urgent need for clear international data privacy and governance. Furthermore, like other LLMs, DeepSeek may face limitations related to inherent biases, hallucinations, and output reliability, which warrants rigorous validation and human oversight before clinical application. This editorial explores DeepSeek's potential role in clinical workflows, medical education, and research while also highlighting its challenges related to security, accuracy, and responsible AI governance with careful implementation, ethical considerations, and international collaboration.

DeepSeek and similar LLMs could enhance healthcare innovation, providing cost-effective, scalable AI solutions while ensuring human expertise remains at the forefront of patient care.

Book Publications — Notable Figures in the Shadows - Part V

The book aims to shed light on the history of national literature and its prominent figures, with a particular focus on creative individuals who contributed to shaping literary and cultural awareness but did not receive the recognition they deserve.

The Figures in the Shadows series, launched by the author nearly a decade ago, is a documentation project that seeks to rediscover writers and intellectuals who worked away from the spotlight and to preserve their contributions in cultural memory. Developed in collaboration with literary clubs and academic and cultural institutions, the series has grown into an important reference for documenting the lives and achievements of many cultural and intellectual figures across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This fifth part, supported by the Saudi Literature Chair, presents selected biographies of fifty-four literary figures from different generations, backgrounds, and regions of the Kingdom. Their works and life stories reflect the richness, diversity, and depth of Saudi culture.

Beyond a simple collection of biographies, the book invites readers to reflect on the significance of literary memory and recognizes the often-unnoticed contributions of individuals who played a vital role in shaping the cultural landscape, thereby deepening appreciation of Saudi literature, its history, and its accomplishments.

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