

Scientific Field Trip Enhances Environmental Awareness and Vegetation Cover



which launched under the theme “Your Impact is Green.”

The Climate Change, Environmental Development, and Vegetation Cover Research Chair organized a scientific field trip to Rawdat Al-Khafs. Held in collaboration with the King Abdulaziz Royal Reserve Development Authority, the trip was part of Environment Week 2026,

During the field trip, participants explored various plant species in their natural habitats and actively contributed to expanding the region's green footprint by planting 200 wild seedlings in southern Rawdat Al-Khafs. The program also featured a visit to a local nursery showcasing a diverse array of native wild flora.

Dr. Asma Alhuqail emphasized the critical value of these hands-on field activities in deepening the public's understanding of plant biology and biodiversity. She highlighted their essential role in conserving natural resources and advancing long-term environmental sustainability.

Seminar Examines Media Narratives During International Crises

The Dr. Ibrahim Al-Muhanna Chair for Energy and Specialized Media hosted a seminar titled “Media Narratives: The American–Israeli–Iranian Crisis”, bringing together a distinguished group of academics and experts in media and energy studies. The event was organized as part of the Chair’s academic initiatives aimed at examining the political and media dimensions of international crises and exploring the role of media in shaping public opinion and perceptions of contemporary conflicts.

Key points from the seminar:

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Muhanna stated that modern media has become a major force shaping energy markets and the global economy, especially during geopolitical crises. He highlighted that the rapid spread of information and misinformation through social media and AI increases market uncertainty, influencing investor behavior and global oil prices.

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Buayyiz noted that American media initially adopted the official narrative of the crisis before critical perspectives emerged regarding its consequences. He also highlighted differences between rapid news coverage and more in-depth political and humanitarian analysis.

Dr. Saleh Bin Salamah noted that the conflict introduced unprecedented

military, media, and political dynamics. He pointed out that European media coverage largely focused on the crisis's direct security implications and its broader economic impact on Europe.

Professor Dr. Mutlaq Al-Mutairi underscored the growing influence of media narratives in modern warfare, stressing their significant role in shaping public perception and influencing high-level political decision-making.

Dr. Mishaal Al-Wuail explained how Iranian media strategically tailored its messaging to both domestic and international audiences, utilizing Arabic-language media outlets and digital platforms to maximize its influence on Arab public opinion.

The seminar concluded with an open discussion on the mechanisms through which digital platforms construct and disseminate political narratives during times of crisis. Participants emphasized the increasing importance of media literacy and the need to verify information through diverse and credible sources in an increasingly complex digital media environment.



Awareness Campaign Promotes Early Detection of Celiac Disease



the Chair, and Dr. Nasser bin Saleh Al-Harbi, Head of the Pediatrics

The Celiac Disease Research Chair launched an educational awareness campaign at the outpatient clinics of King Khalid University Hospital. The event was attended by Dr. Bandar bin Nasser Al-Jafn, Dean of the College of Medicine, Professor Dr. Asaad bin Mohammed Al-Assiri, Supervisor of

Department, along with a number of specialists and students. The campaign aimed to elevate public awareness of celiac disease by educating visitors on its primary symptoms, diagnostic methods, and the critical importance of strict adherence to a gluten-free diet. The event featured interactive educational booths that provided medical and nutritional guidance and witnessed strong engagement from visitors through consultations and awareness materials.

The initiative reflects the Chair’s ongoing commitment to promoting public health awareness and community service.

Supervisor of the Diriyah Environmental Studies Chair Receives Research Excellence Award



Professor Dr. Naif bin Abdullah Al-Dhabi, Supervisor of the Diriyah Environmental Studies Chair, has been awarded first place in the Research Excellence Award for Faculty Members for the 2026 academic year, in recognition of his outstanding scientific contributions

and research achievements. This achievement reflects the important role of research chairs in advancing academic excellence, research, and innovation.



Research Chairs: From Academic Publishing to Creating Impact and Innovation

Introduction

Today, scientific research is a vital driver of economic growth, technological progress, and knowledge advancement. In response to this global shift, research chairs are increasingly serving as drivers of innovation. They now operate within a multidimensional ecosystem encompassing scientific publishing, innovation, strategic partnerships, and community engagement.

In 2025, the university's research chairs became highly active hubs for research and development. This shift aligns with the growing expectations for Saudi universities to move beyond traditional education and support national priorities and the knowledge economy. Within this context, these chairs have evolved into specialized scientific platforms connecting researchers with both the public and private sectors. Today, they focus primarily on applied research that delivers practical technical solutions and innovative projects serving societal needs.



Research Chairs Driving Scientific Innovation Across Fields

King Saud University hosts 77 active research chairs across engineering, science, health, and the humanities. Engineering represents the largest field, accounting for 29 chairs, followed by the humanities with 25 chairs, while the remainder are distributed across science and health disciplines.

A total of 60 research chairs are funded by the university in alignment with national priorities, whereas 17 chairs are supported by external stakeholders, including government entities, private-sector organizations, and individual donors, underscoring the role of strategic partnerships in supporting scientific research and innovation aligned with national and future priorities.

Establishment of Specialized Research Chairs

In 2025, three new research chairs were launched in fields at the forefront of global scientific and technological competition: the Prince Faisal bin Bandar Research Chair for the Elderly, the Alsaedi Semiconductor and Microchip Research Chair, and the Arab National Bank Chair for Ophthalmic Diseases.

The establishment of the Research Chair for the Elderly reflects increasing attention to quality of life and healthy aging. With rising life expectancy worldwide, research on the health, social, and economic dimensions of aging has become a growing priority, contributing to greater interest in this field within Saudi Arabia's research ecosystem.

Meanwhile, the establishment of the Semiconductor and Microchip Research Chair reflects the increasing strategic importance of semiconductor technologies in enabling advances in artificial intelligence, advanced computing, modern digital systems, and smart industries. As global competition in chip manufacturing intensifies, semiconductors have become a strategic priority for economic and technological security. Investments in this field contribute to developing national capabilities and supporting the Kingdom's long-term ambitions in technology and innovation.

Additionally, the establishment of the Ophthalmic Diseases Research Chair reflects the university's growing interest in specialized medical research and preventive healthcare. The chair supports studies on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of eye diseases while fostering innovation in medical technologies and healthcare solutions.

Research Papers Supporting National Priorities and Future Economies



In 2025, the research chairs recorded strong publication performance. According to the Nawat platform, 394 research papers were published across a range of disciplines in internationally ranked journals. The majority of these publications appeared in high-impact journals classified within the Q1 and Q2 quartiles, reflecting the quality and visibility of the research output. Furthermore, chair-affiliated researchers accounted for 70% of first-authored publications and 36% of publications with chair-affiliated corresponding authors, highlighting their significant contribution to scientific output.

Research Chairs: From Academic Publishing to Creating Impact and Innovation

Initiatives Supporting Outstanding and Ongoing Research

The Vice Deanship of Scientific Research for Research Chairs participated in several initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of scientific outputs and increasing publication output in international journals, including the Distinguished Research Chairs Support Initiative within Institutional Funding and the Ongoing Research Support Initiative.

The data showed that the Distinguished Research Chairs Initiative processed 229 research papers, of which 218 were accepted and indexed in the Web of Science database. More than 56% of the publications appeared in Q1 journals, while several studies ranked among the top 10% globally.

The research serves the Kingdom's national priorities: human health, environmental sustainability and basic needs, future economies, and leadership in energy and industry. The energy and industry sector accounted for nearly 47% of the total published research, highlighting the strong emphasis on fields related to economic and technological development in the Kingdom.

To sustain research productivity, the university also launched a two-phase initiative to support ongoing research projects. A specialized scientific committee conducted the evaluation process through 11 meetings, assessing submissions against criteria that included journal quality and quartile ranking, university authorship, and alignment with national strategic priorities.

The first phase received 205 applications, with 165 approved, while the second phase recorded 159 approvals out of 162 submissions, indicating improved compliance with scientific and quality standards.

Research outcomes from the second phase included publications ranked among the top 5% and top 10% globally. In addition, 13 papers were listed among the Shanghai Ranking's Top 100 universities, demonstrating the growing international visibility and impact of the university's research chairs.



High-Impact Outcomes: Aligning Scientific Research with Real-World Needs

Research chairs continued to foster innovation by converting scientific outcomes into practical applications. In 2025, four patents were registered in the fields of engineering, materials science, and medical technology. Key innovations included a technology for the sensitive detection of low-dose beta particles and an advanced method for reinforcing concrete structures. These achievements highlight the role of research chairs in developing practical solutions that support technological and industrial development.

Enriching Arabic Scientific Content

The research chairs published five specialized scientific books in areas such as remote sensing, solar energy, the ethics of artificial intelligence, new media, and qualitative research in media studies. These publications contributed to enriching Arabic scientific content and expanding access to contemporary knowledge across academic and professional communities.



INTELLIGENT DATA ANALYTICS
FOR SOLAR ENERGY
PREDICTION AND FORECASTING
Advances in Resource Assessment
and PV Systems Optimization

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Research Chairs: From Academic Publishing to Creating Impact and Innovation

Local and Regional Awards

Several research chairs were recognized through local and regional awards in 2025 across the fields of innovation, scientific research, and Arabic literature. These achievements underscore the growing influence of the research chairs within the academic and research community.



Community Engagement

In parallel with their academic activities, the community engagement efforts of the research chairs became more prominent over the past year. The research chairs organized more than 13 activities, ranging from awareness campaigns, scientific lectures, and workshops to training programs and memoranda of understanding with governmental and academic entities.

These activities addressed health, environmental, technological, and social issues, including obesity awareness campaigns, lectures on vaccines, workshops on AI in scientific research, and specialized training programs for government personnel. This highlights the role of research chairs as drivers of community engagement and social impact.



Building a More Effective Communication Ecosystem

The “Strategic Communication Initiative for Research Chairs” has emerged as one of the university’s key initiatives aimed at strengthening links between scientific research, society, the private sector, and supporting organizations. The initiative addresses a long-standing challenge in which many research outputs remained confined within academic circles without reaching potential beneficiaries.

The initiative included signing a memorandum of understanding with Higher Order Thinking Skills Company (HOTS), preparing marketing materials for several research chairs, and developing a digital platform to promote innovations and research outcomes while enhancing their media presence.

This reflects growing awareness that scientific research extends beyond publication to support partnerships, funding opportunities, and practical solutions with economic impact. At King Saud University, these efforts represent an important step toward strengthening the university’s role in the knowledge economy and positioning scientific research as a key driver of development and future innovation.

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