Contents

Mustafa(pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation

Founded in 2012, the Mustafa(pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) directed its prime and particular focus on identifying and introducing scientists of great eminence in realm of science and technology; a move which was appreciated by COMSTECH in 2015. The MSTF's activities were primarily focused on awarding a Science and Technology Award, however, the MSTF objectives were expanded and generalized with the passage of time to target different types of audience actively involved in STI development in various countries.

To this end, the MSTF biennially awards the Mustafa(pbuh) Prize to the top researchers and scientists in various areas of science and technology, i.e. "Life and Medical Science and Technology", "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology", "Information and Communication Science and Technology", and "All areas of science and technology".

Before holding the first round of the Mustafa(pbuh) Prize, the MSTF put on its agenda ways to achieve the objectives of the Prize by creating cooperation and interaction among leading scientists and scholars which led to the establishment of a platform dubbed as "Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) among Muslim Countries". This platform intends to open up a window of explaining the discourse of science and technology, expanding the scientific network among the scientists of the Muslim World in form of holding international events, and laying the groundwork for enhancing scientific synergy and cooperation while developing science and technology among OIC member states.

Among the Foundation's other activities is KANS (Knowledge Application and Notion for Society) scientific competition undertaken by the Mustafa(pbuh) Science Center. This Center begun its undertaking with the aim of exploring ideas and benefiting from the thoughts of the academic community to address the problems of the target communities. While KANS is held at University Level, Noor Competition deals with School Students. To model after successful science and technology figures and to commemorate them, Noor competition is named after one of the legendary figures in the history of science or after contemporary scholars. Such programs galvanizes the students (at both levels) into action and strengthens the sense of self-confidence and identity for youth generation and posterity.

The Foundation also strives to bridge the gap between industry and science/technology. Exposure of Industries to Scientists' Achievements (EISA) is a platform developed to meet the needs of a certain group of scientific community and academia to promote their achievements in form of technological products and services to new markets. The program is planned to fulfill the needs of influential bodies from industries, especially from the host country, to make the possibility to localize the developed technologies of other countries in the host country, such as companies, investors, VCs, etc. It also welcomes owners of technology, including scientists and technologists who proved their achievement in terms of products and services that could grab a market or have taken a potential market for granted.

In order to finance the Mustafa(pbuh) Prize and to develop science and technology in the Islamic World enjoying the honorable tradition of endowment, the MSTF has sought to attract, organize, and target the resources provided by the benevolent benefactors in science and technology employing various financial instruments under the auspices of 'votive offering [Nazr] and endowment' in science and technology. The MPIEF has then been established with the perspective of being the largest Fund for science and technology development in the Islamic World. It launched its mission on "science and technology to promote peace, security, and well-being of mankind" and pursued the goal of "financing the Mustafa(pbuh) Prize while investing and supporting the development of science and technology" adopting the motto of "Each Muslim Has One Share to Develop Science and Technology in the Islamic World". The MPIEF's capital is obtained from endowment or Qardhul Hassan (interest-free loan) where contributed resources in form of endowment belong to the MPIEF whereas the resources principal of Qardhul Hassan belongs to the contributor and the interest generated by the investment belongs to the MPIEF.

To communicate internationally, the MSTF uses the language of Art as a strong medium. In so doing, many artists have

shaken hands with the Foundation leading to the establishment of the Mustafa(pbuh) Art Museum which started to work with a hand woven tapestry dedicated to the MSTF by an accomplished carpet weaver artist. The Mustafa(pbuh) Art Museum showcases art and talent and is a platform for materializing and illustrating benefactors' goodwill and noble intentions in science and technology endowment globally.

To sum up, the objectives of the MSTF include increasing the level of cooperation and synergy in science and technology with an emphasis on advanced technologies, creating an atmosphere of cooperation and interaction among world experts and scientists, introducing the Mustafa(pbuh) Prize as a top science and technology award for competence and scientific excellence in the global arena, spotting and introducing leading-edge technologies, honoring the owners of scientific achievements and the pioneers in cutting-edge technologies, enhancing the scientific and technological standing of the world's scientists, and finally adopting policies for a collective action while developing a common scientific consensus in the world to promote welfare, security, and health in human societies, and Islamic countries in particular.

Allah is All-Wise

Indeed, knowledge is indubitably a light in the pure hearts over whom only God's eternal destiny rules and it is a blessing and prosperity for those who seek Allah's remembrance. People of knowledge must strive to help others enjoy the blessing light of their wisdom. Thus, surely being in the pursuit of knowledge is an obligation which has long been placed on the shoulders of the followers of Mustafa(pbuh). Not only shall they have the felicity in this world, they shall be on a bright light to discern the truth of creation and to reach the abode of prosperity. Whether this knowledge is in his hand or a seed in the heaven, the mighty thought of men must benefit from the wisdom and subjugate it to God's light of guidance so that they can walk on the straight path toward the bright horizon.

We believe that the followers of Mustafa(pbuh) shall realize the teachings of his as the best servant of Allah. They must discover the knowledge while exploring the truth of the universe and illuminating the transcendental spirit of men toward the verities of creation. This shall grant men the true peace and shall provide them with security, health, and welfare in this world as well as prosperity for the Hereafter.

Islamic civilization has beheld the tremendous influence of its scholars like, Ibn Battuta, Avicenna, Ibn al-Haytham, Al-Biruni, Badi al-Zaman al-Jazari, and its philosophers like, Al-Farabi (Alpharabius), Ibn Rushd (Averroes), Muhammad ibn Zakariyyā al-Rāzī, and al-Khwarizmi who kept the torch of science flaming and wanted the knowledge on a path which put men near stationed to God while recognizing it a healing and mercy for the conditions of human beings; these great men brought about a ground for a better life for humanity through promoting and developing such knowledge.

Mustafa(pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) plans to provide the fertile ground for such a grand mission to praise and appreciate the contemporary bright stars in the scientific firmament and to open a field for the synergy among the scientists of the Muslim World. The Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP) is a platform established in this Foundation to develop such interactions in science and technology. This comprehensive plan of action includes support and development packages and incentives for scientific cooperation of scientists' networks and

Islamic centers at international levels. The plan follows scientific events in collaboration with scientific communities, granting financial assistance along with applied-research grants, establishing and deepening relations between scientists and scientific communities in the Muslim World, and hence reflecting the results of science and technology in human society.

The first and third STEP were held in Tehran, simultaneous with Mustafa(pbuh) Prize Award Ceremony in 2015 and 2017, in cooperation with Islamic World Academy of Sciences, and various universities and scientific centers. The second STEP was held in Putrajaya, in collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia, Young Scientists Network, and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia. The fourth STEP is going to be held on Health, Water, and Energy, in collaboration with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU).

I feel it incumbent upon me to express my gratitude to Prof. Jackie Ying, the 2015 Mustafa(pbuh) Prize laureate in Bio-Nanotechnology; and Prof. Amin Shokrollahi, the 2017 Mustafa(pbuh) Prize laureate in Information Theory; and Dr. Ali Al-Bimani the Vice Chancellor of SQU who kindly accepted the invitation of MSTF and laid the groundwork for holding the forth STEP.

Such programs are being held throughout the year in different countries around various fields in science and technology and are hosted by universities, scientific centers, and prominent scientists of the Islamic World who are counted as leading scientists in cooperation with MSTF in order to promote the level of interaction among scientists of the Islamic World.

Backing applied-scientific research conducted by OIC member states is among other missions of STEP. These include grants which are obtained from scientific endeavors of Muslim World's scientists and are used in order to facilitate and expedite the processes from which the Islamic Community benefits. The financial assistance of STEP are awarded to the output-oriented and applied research in which at least two countries of the Muslim World participate in the investment, implementation, and exploitation of its results and have scientific cooperation in those areas.

MSTF hopes to take firm and consistent steps to promote the scientific and technological interactions in the Islamic World and to revive the role of the Muslim scientists in the development of science and technology. MSTF hopes to witness the scientific leadership of the Islamic Ummah once again in achieving the scientific facts and discoveries of the universe. This would not be attained unless the scientists of the Muslim World and the Muslim Communities and benefactors all cooperated closely. Therefore, this Foundation warmly welcomes all the enthusiasts with open arms.

Mahdi Safarinia
CEO of Mustafa(pbuh)
Science and Technology Foundation

Sultan Qaboos University

جامعة السلطان قابوس

Sultan Qaboos University

Every day in Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) marks a new achievement in the scientific record of the Omani people in their efforts to fulfill the wise vision of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. The establishment of Sultan Qaboos University, first announced by His Majesty on the 10th National Day in 1980, saw the first university in the sultanate becoming a beacon of education and research, and a source of pride for all Omani people. Following the announcement, construction commenced in Al-Khoudh, Muscat, and the university was officially inaugurated on the 29th of November 1986 by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said to initiate its march towards achieving its ambitious goals of producing academically and technologically well-qualified Omanis.

Sultan Qaboos University performs its educational research and community services roles through nine colleges. These are the College of Arts & Social Sciences, the College of Economics & Political Sciences, the College of Education, the College of

Nursing, the College of Law, the College of Science, the College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences, the College of Medicine & Health Sciences, and the College of Engineering. This range of colleges offers an abundance of opportunities for students to pursue their undergraduate and postgraduate studies in a diverse range of strategically important fields.. The annually increasing number of students admitted to the university's various programs across undergraduate and postgraduate levels testifies to the important role the university continues to play in Oman's education landscape.

The university's academic process is supported by four deanships, which are the Deanship of Admissions & Registration, the Deanship of Students Affairs, the Deanship of Postgraduates Studies, and the Deanship of Research. The university also has 13 research centers, in addition to several other service centers, including the Center for Preparatory Studies, which deliver important services, the Main Library

and Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. The university also houses centers for staff development, career guidance, student counseling, the Quality Assurance Office, and the Risk Management Office.

Royal visits have been made by His Majesty two times. The first was on the 2nd of May 2000, which was a tremendous impetus towards future progress and development in different area of knowledge, and the second royal visit was on the 18th of December 2010, during which His Majesty inaugurated the Cultural Centre, one of the magnificent edifices of knowledge at the university.

In its efforts to be a leader in learning and teaching, research and innovation, and community service, the university has established links a range of organizations in the private and public sectors both within Oman and around the world. Its links with numerous leading universities worldwide are enhanced by mutual visits, the exchange of academics and students, and the signing various agreements.

Since the university's inauguration, Sultan Qaboos University has become one of the strongest educational institutes in Oman and in the entire Middle East and North Africa region. This continued progress has been built on the hard work of a community that is more than just a work or study venue, but a place where everyone connects as one; a community that is surrounded with shared knowledge and experiences in addition to new innovative ideas that are all incorporated to fulfill the needs of students.

We are a university that strives for excellence in knowledge and education. A university that focuses on the core values of teaching and learning, research, and community service. A university whose aim is to generate knowledge through widespread collaboration and exchange. A university that opts for the unification, innovation, and, most importantly, connections that bind the SQU community together. Finally, SQU is a university that is honored to graduate its students with pride for all they have accomplished, for themselves, for the community, and for Oman. I am, therefore, proud and honored to be a part of this prosperous community.

Here it is, Sultan Qaboos University, just as His Majesty, the leader of the nation, wanted it to be - a beacon of science and knowledge and an authentic source of motivation for young Omanis to explore and learn. The university looks forward to an ever brighter future fulfilling its vision inspired by the Omani renaissance led by his Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, to achieve future progress in scientific, intellectual and cultural fields.

Preface

I would like to express a warm welcome to participants of the 4th Science and Technology Exchange Program among Muslim Countries (STEP) event, which is to take place at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, from December 2-5, 2018. The organization of STEP4 has been a collaborative effort of Sultan Qaboos University, through the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research, and the Mustafa(pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation. STEP4 offers an opportunity for Muslim scholars and researchers from around the world, and non-Muslim scholars working in Muslim nations, to gather in a supportive, inclusive environment where the exchange of knowledge, experiences, achievements, and future plans is facilitated. This exchange takes place between young researchers and established experts, and representative from academia, industry, government, and the general community, in the fields of Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Information and Communication Technology, and Sustainable Energy. In addition to formal academic exchange, the event will also host the awarding of the Mustafa(pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation's Mustafa(pbuh) Prize for scientific achievement across these fields – an initiative that will have a significant impact on research output across these strategic fields in Muslim Countries.

The 4th Science and Technology Exchange Program among Muslim Countries event is hosting around 300 participants, including about 220 from the Sultanate of Oman itself and 80 from around the world. STEP4 is also featuring an exhibition where local and international organizations and participants can showcase their innovative products, processes and solutions. The exhibition offers an amazing opportunity for a diverse range of stakeholders to engage in dialogue about ways academia and industry can commercialize innovations to meet various challenges and opportunities in Muslim countries. It is my sincere wish that all participants, whatever their backgrounds, find STEP4 a valuable and informative experience.

Dr. Ali Al-Bimani
The Vice Chancellor of SQU

Program and Schedule of 4th STEP

Day 1 | Sunday (2018-12-02)

SQU Exhibition

9:00-10:00 **Inauguration**

(Conference Hall)

- Dr. Misida Al Jahwari: Welcome & opening
- Dr. Rahma Al Mahrooqi: Welcome remarks
- Prof. Rassoul Dinarvand: Welcome remarks
- Prof. Saeed Sarkar: Keynote speech

10:00-10:45 **Press Conference | Break**

10:45-11:00 **SQU Exhibition Inauguration**

11:00-13:00 **Energy Transition; Situation of Renewable Energy**

(Conference Hall)

Panel Discussion:

- **11:00-11:15** Opening remarks and introduction by Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan
- **11:15-11:30** Panel objectives and panelists' introduction by Prof. Raşit Turan
- **11:30-12:30** Panelists' speeches (10 minutes each)
  - Prof. Arif Hepbasli
  - Prof. Kamaruzzaman Sopian
  - Prof. Mahmood Yaghoubi
  - Prof. Mohammed Farid
  - Dr. Ala' Al-Muhtaseb
  - Dr. Max Paoli
- **12:30-12:50** Audience Q&A/Panelists' discussion and future direction plans mediated by Pro. Raşit Turan
- **12:50-13:00** Summary and conclusion by Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan

13:00-14:00 — **Prayer and Lunch**
(SQU Annex Building)

14:00-16:00 — **Success Story**

- Chairs' speeches: 25 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A
- Presentations by SQU young scholars: 15 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A
- Assessing young scholars' presentations

Hall A
(Al Faham Hall)

Chair: Prof. Khaled Ben Letaief

Assessment Committee:
- Prof. Ali Beitollahi | - Dr. Nasser Al Zeidi

PhD Students from SQU Computer Science Department:
- Amjed Amer Al-Thuhli | - Amal Bati Said Al-Abri |
- Basel Mohammad Bani-Ismail | - Faiza Al-Salti

Hall B
(Lecture Theater 1)

Chair: Prof. Jackie Ying

Assessment Committee:
- Dr. Mohammad Reza Lornejad | - Dr. Fatma Al Mamari

PhD Students from SQU Physics Department:
- Suleiman Mohammed AL-Risi | - Khadija Said Al-Rashdi |
- Salim Saif Al-Kamiyani | - Mohammed Salim Ali Al-Maashani

Hall C
(Conference Hall)

Chair: Prof. Amin Shokrollahi

Assessment Committee:
- Dr. Amin Ardeshirdavani | - Dr. Abdullah Al Hamadani

PhD Students from SQU Computer Science Department:
- Hamid Abood Jadad | - Jokha Abdullah Al_Kalbani |
- Yahya Salim Al-Sawafi | - Younis Said Al-Anqoudi

Day 2 | Monday (2018-12-03)

9:00-11:00

STI and Future of Health with Focus on Drug Discovery and Drug Delivery

(Conference Hall)

Panel Discussion:

- **9:00-9:15** Opening remarks and introduction by Prof. Jackie Ying
- **9:15-9:30** Panel objectives and panelists' introduction by Prof. Saeed Sarkar
- **9:30-10:30** Panelists' speeches (10 minutes each)
  - Prof. Saghir Akhtar
  - Prof. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary
  - Dr. Sergey Dobretsov
  - Prof. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani
  - Prof. Fikrettin Sahin
  - Prof. Kamran Bagheri Lankarani
  - Prof. Iqbal Parker
- **10:30-10:50** Audience Q&A/Panelists' discussion and future direction plans mediated by Prof. Saeed Sarkar
- **10:50-11:00** Summary and conclusion by Prof. Jackie Ying

11:00-11:30

Break

11:30-13:00

Scientific Achievements

Hall A

(Al Faham Hall)

- **Further Achievements of Scientists from Islamic World (Health)**

Chair: Prof. Rassoul Dinarvand

- **Technical Presentations**

-Prof. Ibrahim M. El Sherbiny
-Prof. Jafri Malin Abdullah
-Dr. Wael Mamdouh

- Chairs' speeches: 25 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A
- Technical presentations: 15 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A

Hall B
(Lecture Theater 1)

- **Latest Achievements (Nano-Bio)**

Chair: Prof. Jackie Ying

- **Technical Presentations**

-Prof. Mohammad Esmaeil Akbari | -Prof. Farhan J. Ahmad | -Prof. Aini Ideris

Hall C
(Conference Hall)

- **Latest Achievements (ICT)**

Chair: Prof. Amin Shokrollahi

- **Technical Presentations**

- Prof. Khaled Ben Letaief | - Dr. Hussein A. Kazem | - Prof. Boudjéma Samraoui

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13:00-14:00 **Prayer and Lunch**
(SQU Annex Building and Al Faham Hall)

14:00-16:00 **Water and Wastewater; Challenges and Solutions**
(Conference Hall)
Panel Discussion

- **14:00-14:15** Opening remarks and introduction by Dr. Mahad Baawain
- **14:15-14:30** Panel objectives and panelists' introduction by Prof. Ali Beitollahi
- **14:30-15:30** Panelists' speeches (10 minutes each)
  - Prof. Adel O. Sharif | - Prof. Imran Ali | - Dr. Qaisar Mahmood | - Prof. Mustafa Soylak | - Dr. Woei-Jye Lau | - Prof. Ahmad Zaharin Aris
- **15:30-15:50** Audience Q&A/Panelists' discussion and future direction plans mediated by Prof. Ali Beitollahi
- **15:50-16:00** Summary and conclusion by Dr. Mahad Baawain

Day 3 | Tuesday (2018-12-04)

9:00-11:00 — **Developing Technology in Islamic Countries**

- Round Table Discussion
- Exchanging opinions for the draft of final statement

Hall A (Al Faham Hall)

- **Critical Gaps of Energy for Developing Technology in Islamic Countries**

Chaired by:
- Prof. Khaled Ben Letaief
- Dr. Max Paoli
- Dr. Amer Al-Hinai

Hall B (Lecture Theater 1)

- **Critical Gaps of Health for Developing Technology in Islamic Countries**

Chaired by:
- Prof. Jackie Ying
- Prof. Rassoul Dinarvand
- Prof. Omar Al Rawas

Hall C (Conference Hall)

- **Critical Gaps of Water for Developing Technology in Islamic Countries**

Chaired by:
- Prof. Amin Shokrollahi
- Dr. Mahad Baawain
- Dr. Mohamed Al Abri

11:00-11:30 — **Break**

11:30-13:00 — **How to Make a Common Dialogue between Scientists & Industries (Opening session of EISA)**

(Conference Hall)

Panel Discussion

Keynote speech: 30 minutes

Chair: Dr. Salim Al Harthi
Mediator: Prof. Mostafa Ghanei

Panelists:
- Prof. Jackie Ying
- Prof. Amin Shokrollahi
- Dr. Ashraf Al Hinai

13:00-14:00 — **Prayer and Lunch**

(SQU Annex Building)

14:00-16:00 — **Exposure of Industries to Scientists' Achievements (EISA)**

(Conference Hall)
- Pitch Decks by EISA Participating Scientists

19:00-21:00 — **Closing Ceremony and Banquet**

(Clock Tower Area in SQU)
- Reading the final statement
- Offering awards to selected SQU young scholars by H.E. Dr. Ali Al Bimani

Day 4 | Wednesday (2018-12-05)

7:00-16:00 — **Sightseeing Program**

The 2015 Mustafa(pbuh) Prize Laureate in Bio Nanotechnology

Prof. Jackie Ying

Prof. Ying received her B.E. and PhD from the Cooper Union and Princeton University, respectively. She was Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT (1992-2005), and Founding Executive Director of Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology in Singapore (2003-2018). She currently leads the NanoBio Lab as A*STAR Senior Fellow. For her research on nanostructured materials, Prof. Ying has been recognized with the American Ceramic Society Ross C. Purdy Award, David and Lucile Packard Fellowship, Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award, National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award, Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, American Chemical Society Faculty Fellowship Award in Solid-State Chemistry, Technology Review's Inaugural TR100 Young Innovator Award, American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Allan P. Colburn Award, International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Jubilee Medal, Materials Research Society Fellowship, Royal Society of Chemistry Fellowship, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering Fellowship, Academy of Sciences of Iran Medal of Honor, American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellowship, Islamic World Academy of Sciences-COMSTECH Ibrahim Memorial Award, Singapore National Academy of Science Fellowship, and U.S. National Academy of Inventors Fellowship. Prof. Ying was elected a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, and a member of the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina. She was named one of the "One Hundred Engineers of the Modern Era" by AIChE in its Centennial Celebration. She was selected by The Muslim 500 in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to be one of the world's 500 most influential Muslims. She was the inaugural winner of the Mustafa(pbuh) Prize "Top Scientific Achievement Award" in 2015 for her research in bio-nanotechnology. She is the recipient of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) 2018 Academy Prize in Basic and Engineering Sciences. She is the Editor-in-Chief of Nano Today, which has an impact factor of 17.753.

The 2015 Mustafa(pbuh) Prize
Laureate in Information Theory

Prof. M. Amin Shokrollahi

Prof. Shokrollahi is a Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics at EPFL, Switzerland. He did his Master Degree in Mathematics at the University of Karlsruhe in 1988, his PhD at the University of Bonn in 1991, and his Habilitation at the University of Bonn in 1997. He is an internationally recognized expert on communication algorithms, in particular theory of error-correcting codes, and has also worked on complexity theory, computational algebra and number theory, computer networks, and recently, high speed electronics. In these areas he has more than 130 peer-reviewed publications, and more than 120 filed or granted patent applications. He is most famous for his work on Raptor codes, a class of rateless codes used for transmission of information over impaired networks. For this work, he has received numerous awards, such as the IEEE Eric Sumner Award, the IEEE Hamming Medal, several best paper awards, and most recently, the Mustafa(pbuh) Prize. Prof. Shokrollahi's current research is on the design, implementation, and commercialization of energy efficient chip-to-chip links, an area that has created a lot of interest by the largest companies in the world.

Ala'a H. Al-Muhtaseb

Dr. Ala'a H. Al-Muhtaseb is an Associate Professor in the Department of Petroleum and Chemical Engineering at Sultan Qaboos University. He obtained his BSc in Chemical Engineering from Jordan University in 1999, and his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Queen's University Belfast (UK) in 2004. Currently, the overarching aim of his research is on catalysis and its applications in biofuels and wastewater treatment. He has over 80 publications in several peer reviewed Journals, 15 international conferences, and 2 book chapters. Dr. Ala'a has a number of major research projects and consultancy services during the last 10 years with a total value of around 2 million USD in different areas of energy and water treatment.

Ali Al-Maktoumi

Dr. Ali Al-Maktoumi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Soils, Water and Agricultural Engineering, Sultan Qaboos University. He obtained his BSc in Soil and Water Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman in 1998, his MSc in Soil and Water Management, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman in 2000, and his PhD in Environmental Engineering (Water Resources Management), University of Queensland, Australia in 2007. His research focuses in water resources management in arid zones, with most focus in recharge dam's efficiency, groundwater hydrology, seawater intrusion, aquifer storage and recovery, and numerical modeling. Dr Al-Maktoumi has a number of major research projects and consultancy services during the last 10 years with a total value of around 3 million USD in different areas of hydrology and water resources management. Dr Al-Maktoumi has published more than 30 refereed journal papers, 25 international conference presentations, 5 invited keynote presentations, 30 technical report and newspaper articles along with several book chapters. Dr Al-Maktoumi established research collaboration with leading international institutions such as JPL-NASA - USA; University of Nebraska Lincoln, USA; Utrecht University, Delft University of technology, UNESCO IHE, and Amsterdam University in the Netherlands; University of Jordan, Jordan; Al-Hassan II Institute in Morocco; UAEU, UAE, and many others. He is currently the Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Studies and Research at the college of Agriculture and Marine Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University.

Amer Al-Hinai

Dr. Amer Al-Hinai is the director of the Sustainable Energy Research Center (SERC) and Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at Sultan Qaboos University. Dr. Amer has carried out more than 33 industry-funded research projects, with total funds exceeded 3 million USD, related to energy savings, power system analysis, power system quality and transient stability of power systems. His research output has been recognized as a value-added research by the industry, engineering societies, and the academia. This is proved by the continuity of research funding from industry and academia, the awards received, and AER appointments by the Council of Ministers. During 2012-2016. Dr. Amer did his sabbatical leave followed by secondment to Masdar Institute (MI). The Institute is a postgraduate and research academic institution focused on sustainability, water and renewable energy resources. In 2011, Dr. Amer was appointed as AER board member, then the Chairman of AER during 2014-2017. The Authority is an independent electricity regulatory body in Oman established following the restructuring of the electricity sector in Oman. Dr. Amer received several awards such as His Majesty Trust Fund research award, "One of the Pioneers in the Engineering Practice in the Gulf", Fulbright Research Scholarship, and first prize for the technical competence paper at the 39th IECON. Dr. Amer Al-Hinai is an IEEE senior member and a former Chairman of IEEE Oman Section.

Abdullah Al-Hamdani

Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamdani is an Assistant Professor and the head of the Department of Computer Science at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman. Dr. Abdullah has received his PhD and MSc in Computer Science from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, in 2004 and 1998, respectively. He has received his BSc in Computer Science from the Department of Mathematics and Computing, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman in 1995. His areas of interest are Databases, Web Computing, Data Mining, Machine Learning, Big Data, Cloud Computing, and Digital Libraries. He is the coordinator for Database research group and a member in the Web Computing research group. He is PI and member of several TRC (The Research Council in Oman) and SQU-IG (internal projects) funded projects. He has published in different conferences and international journals. He has supervised many PhD and MSc students.

Nasser Alzeidi

Dr. Nasser Alzeidi received his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Glasgow (UK) in 2007. He is currently an Assistant Professor of computer science and the director of the Center for Information Systems at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. His research interests include performance evaluation of communication systems, wireless networks, interconnection networks, System on Chip architectures, and parallel and distributed computing. He is a member of the IEEE and the Chair of the IEEE Oman Computer Chapter. He is a co-founder of Code Academy, an SME specialized in the technologies of fourth industrial revolution.

Ali Beitollahi

Prof. Ali Beitollahi received his MSc degree in solid state physics from Salford University and did his PhD and carried out his Postdoctoral research in material science in Leeds University, UK. He is a member of Iran nanotechnology initiative council (INIC) since 2003. He has acted as the director of international collaboration committee as well as nano-standardization committee of INIC. He is a full professor at the metallurgy and materials engineering of Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST) for more than 20 years. His publications include more than 160 papers in various well known international ISI journals as well as national and international conferences. He has also engaged in more than 20 successfully finished industrial research projects supported by various Iranian local industries mainly in the field of advanced materials and nanomaterials. He has supervised many PhD and MSc dissertations and theses. Prof. Beitollahi's main research areas include advanced materials, nanomagnetic materials, and nanoceramics.

Aini Ideris

Prof. Aini Ideris graduated with DVM in 1979 from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM)–currently known as Universiti Putra Malaysia, MVSc in Avian Medicine, from University of Liverpool, England in 1981, and PhD in 1989 from UPM. She continued on for further research training at University of California, Davis (1990) and Cornell University of USA (1993). Aini has been actively involved in research related to the control of poultry diseases and development of poultry vaccines which led to the commercialisation of Newcastle disease and tissue culture adapted fowl pox vaccines, in 1995 and 1996 respectively. She is also very active in professional associations, nationally and internationally. In 2013, she was inducted as one of Inaugural members of Hall of Honour, World Veterinary Poultry Association (WVPA) and elected as Vice President to WVPA, in 2015. In recognition of her scientific contributions, Aini was elected as Fellow Academy of Sciences (FASc) Malaysia, in 2008, Founding Fellow of Malaysian College of Veterinary Specialists (FMCVS), Fellow of Malaysian Scientific Association (FMSA), and Fellow of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (FIAS) in 2011. She won various awards nationally and internationally. Among others, National Academia Award 2010, for commercialisation of Newcastle disease vaccine, Lifetime Achievement Award-Academic & Veterinarian at Livestock Asia 2018, and 2018 Matsuda Award by ISSAAS for her leading role in avian health. Aini has held various administrative positions in UPM, such as, Chairman of Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Deputy Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Dean School of Graduate Studies, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International), Director, Corporate Strategy & Communications Office (CoSComm), and currently, Vice Chancellor, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Farhan Jalees Ahmad

Prof. Farhan Jalees Ahmad is currently a professor at the School of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, and Dean of Interdisciplinary Sciences, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, India. He is an internationally known researcher in the area of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Having obtained his degree in M.Pharma and PhD (Medicine) from Jamia Hamdard, he continues to teach and leads a very productive research group which has been funded extensively by national and international funding agencies. The focus of his group has been in the area of Nanomedicine and many of his nano products have been approved by the DCGI and successfully transferred to the Defense Services for use in the armed forces. Nano DPI with a lung deposition of >60% was clinically proved in patients of COPD. His work on iron oxide magnetic nanoparticles showed advantages of combined paclitaxel and curcumin in terms of reducing toxicities and improving therapeutic effects in the treatment of solid tumors. He has published more than 300 publications, 12 book chapters, 9 books and has a US patent, two PCTs and 24 Indian patents. With a total citation of 8258, h-Index of 42 and i-10 index of 180, Professor Ahmad's work has been clearly well received by the scientific community. He has supervised ~35 M. Pharma students and ~43 PhD scholars. Moreover, he continues to offer consultancy to small pharmaceutical setups.

Mohamed Iqbal Parker

Prof. Parker is a professor in the Department of Medical Biochemistry at the University of Cape Town (UCT). He is the founding Director of the Cape Town Component of the ICGEB (2007-2016). Prior to this he was Professor and Head of Medical Biochemistry and the Director of Health Science Research at UCT with a personal DST/NRF Research Chair in Cancer Biology in 2007. He obtained his PhD in Biochemistry in 1979 at UCT and his research interest is in Molecular Biology and Genetics of Oesophageal Cancer. He is the Treasurer of the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and served on the Executive Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He serves on the International Scientific Advisory Committees of the UNESCO International Centre for Biotechnology in Nsukka, Nigeria and the UNESCO Biotechnology Centre in Tripoli, Libya. He serves as a Peer Reference Group Member for the SIDA International Science Programs (Sweden). Professor Parker is a founder member of the Academy of Science of South Africa and served as General Secretary (2000-2004), Vice President (2010-2016) and currently is Chair of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee. He is a fellow of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, the World Academy of Sciences, and the African Academy of Sciences. He is the recipient of the NSTF Award for "Outstanding Contributions to Science, Engineering and Technology", the SASBMB Gold Medal for his contributions to Biochemistry and the CANSA Oettle Medal for significant contributions to cancer research.

Jafri Malin Abdullah

Prof. Dato' Dr. Hj Jafri Malin Datuk Hj Abdullah is currently a professor of Neurosciences at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Health Campus, Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Malaysia. Professor Dr. Jafri Malin Abdullah graduated with an MD from the School of Medical Sciences, University Sains Malaysia in 1986. In 1994, he was awarded the Diplomate Certification of Specialization in Neurosurgery from the University of Ghent, Belgium. He obtained his PhD (Magna Cum Laude) from the same university in 1995. His area of expertise is neurosurgery. Professor Dr Jafri is a Fellow of the Academy Science Malaysia, American College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal Society of Medicine(UK). He was awarded the prestigious Young National Malaysian Scientist Award in 1999 and Top Research Scientist Award, Academy Science Malaysia in 2013 both by the then Prime Minister. The most significant scientific contributions made by him are in the field of stroke, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy and EEG, brain tumor and also stem cell in neurosurgery. Part of his cluster's research are focused on new treatments in the field of neurooncology, medicinal chemistry in the field of biodegradable wafer antibiotics, drugs for movement disorders, CNS tuberculosis, epilepsy and pain as well as ethnopharmacology. Together with the Transcranial Magnetic stimulation facilities and complete behaviour lab his other cluster concentrates on comparative as well as neuropsychology and behavioral neurosciences. Besides being responsible for setting up labs for functional magnetic resonance imaging, magnetoencephalography, high density electroencephalography, neurogenetics, rodent animal behavior, electrophysiology, stem cell culture, and primary cell laboratories, his most recent research activities are in the field neuroinformatics, neural plasticity, and NDV virus.

Kashif Rasool

Dr. Kashif Rasool is currently working as a Research Fellow at Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), Qatar. He earned his PhD in Environmental Engineering from Kyungpook National University, Korea in 2014. Before joining QEERI, he worked as an Assistant Professor at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Pakistan. Dr. Rasool's research interests include development of methods and tools for an integrated approach to all aspects of design, operation, and management for water/wastewater treatment, desalination, and sustainable bioenergy production. Dr. Rasool received several esteemed awards and certificate of honors throughout his career. He received prestigious Green Talents Award 2017 for High Potentials in Sustainable Development from German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Recently, Dr. Rasool got Distinguished Researcher Award at Silk Road International Symposium (SRIS), XI'AN China. Earlier in 2015 he received Best Team Member Award at QEERI, Qatar. He is on the reviewing panel of several prestigious journals including ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, Journal of Hazardous Materials, and received Outstanding Reviewer Award 2017 from Elsevier for his contribution to Chemosphere Journal. He also serves as a member of American Chemical Society (ACS), International Water Association (IWA), and Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP). Dr. Rasool is currently working on development of advanced nanomaterials for their applications in environmental remediation including water/wastewater treatment. Dr. Rassol's research accomplishments can be summarized as 28 peer reviewed articles published in reputed scientific journals such as ACS Nano, two patents and more than 20 national/international conference presentations.

Muhammad Haris Akram

Mr. Muhammad Haris Akram is employed at OIC – COMSTECH Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation as Program Manager. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Power Engineering and a Master's in Energy Systems Engineering. He has worked in energy efficiency projects in different industries for over five years and has international trainings in solar power plants designing, industrial solar heating & cooling systems, energy auditing and green economies. He has worked on various projects of development agencies like GIZ, UNEP, UNIDO, etc. He was the lead contributor from Pakistan for the "Renewables Global Status Report "2017 and 2018", REN 21. Also, a peer reviewer of the annual Renewables Global Status Reports of Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century. He authored a book "Renewable Energy Profile of OIC Countries" in February 2018. He was part of the project of compiling the "Science Profile of OIC Countries"; 10 country profiles have been published and in phase 2, eight more country reports will have been published by 2019. He is currently engaged in preparing documents for the implementation of OIC STI Agenda 2026.

Momin Khan

Dr. Momin Khan is currently working as an Assistant Professor at Department of Chemistry Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Pakistan. He got his PhD in Organic Medicinal Synthetic Chemistry from HEJ Research Institute, University of Karachi, Pakistan, in 2011. Dr. Khan completed a six-month postdoctoral training at University of Bristol UK, in 2014. He participated as a trainee in 17th Master Trainer Faculty Professional Development Program (MTFPDP) held at higher education commission of Pakistan (December 27, 2011-February 24, 2012) followed by Advance Faculty Professional Development Program on "Ensuring Training Effectiveness (Batch 5), AIT Extension, Bangkok, (March 24-April 11, 2014). Dr Khan is a master trainer of Higher Education Commission [of] Pakistan for the university faculty. He has done several workshops on microteaching in different universities of KPK Pakistan as a resource person. Currently, Dr. Khan is working on synthesis of medicinally important heterocyclic compounds having enzyme inhibition properties. Dr. Momin has published 53 research articles in impact factored international peer reviewed journals in addition to publication of a US Patent on medicinal chemistry. He has one PhD, 32 MPhil and 44 undergraduate students. Currently, five PhD and eight MPhil research scholars are working under his supervision.

Mukhlis A Rahman

Dr. Mukhlis A Rahman is an academic staff of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia since 2007. He graduated in Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in 2004. He obtained Master of Engineering in 2006. He was later appointed as a lecturer in Department of Gas Engineering. By the end of 2007, he pursued his PhD study at Imperial College London, United Kingdom and worked on the project of "Ceramic Hollow Fiber Membrane with Micro-reactor Characteristic". Ever since, he and his team have developed various types of ceramic hollow fiber membranes for water and gas separation applications for which he has been awarded "MASS Young Scientist Special Award 2018" by Malaysian Solid State Science and Technology Society (MASS) for his contribution to "Phase Inversion and Sintering Technique, Ceramic Membrane and Crystalline Materials". Dr. Mukhlis has been invited to give speech on ceramic membrane at international conferences i.e. the 11th Aseanian Membrane Society Conference (AMS11), Brisbane, Australia, and International Conference on Membrane Technology and its Application (MEMSEP-2017), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India. He also edited a book on Membrane Separation Principles and Applications 2018, published by Elsevier. Currently, Dr. Mukhlis and his team are investigating facile methods in improving stability of various composite membranes deposited onto alumina hollow fiber for water and gas separation applications.

Mustafa Soylak

Prof. Mustafa Soylak is well known specialist in Analytical Environmental Chemistry, Spectrophotometric Analysis in atomic spectroscopy. He has over 585 papers, his h-index is 87. He has several books and got many awards. Dr. Mustafa Soylak was recognized as a Highly Cited Researcher in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 by Clarivate Analytics (Thomson Reuters) in recognition of ranking among the top 1% of researchers for most cited documents. He is a Fellow of Chemical Society of Pakistan. He is working on Environmental Analytical Chemistry, Nanotechnology, Nanomaterials, Nanocomposites, Separation/ Preconcentration Techniques including Solid Phase Extraction, Coprecipitation, Cloud point extraction, membrane filtration, speciation and microextraction of trace organic and inorganic species which are playing important roles for human beings. He was a visiting professor at King Saud University- Saudi Arabia in 2010-2016. He is now a Professor at Erciyes University, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Chemistry, Kayseri-Turkey.

Farzan Nikpour

After finishing high school in SAMPAD, Farzan Nikpour started Mechanical Engineering in Sharif University (Tehran) and finished his Master degree in Tehran University. As a member of Iran National Physics Olympiad committee, he and his friends established Young Scholars Club research group which led to founding Bonian Danesh Pajouhan [research] Institute. Being a co-founder of Bonian, he has also been a member of its board and now is the CEO of this knowledge-based company. During these years, his main focus has been on development of desalination technologies especially MED systems. The achievements of his team in this field in both scientific and industrial aspects have made the Bonian Institute one of the leading companies in desalination industry in Iran. Some of these achievements have been presented in international journals and conferences which have received applause. They are concerned with using desalination technology as a basis for sustainable development. As an example, they are promoting desalination for providing reliable and clean water resources by waste heat recovery. This has been successfully implemented in Iran.

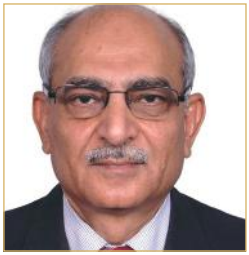
Farid Semsarha

Dr. Farid Semsarha, Assistant Professor of Biophysics, is currently working as a researcher, scientist and R&D manager of MIM Daroo Pharmaceutical Co., botanical drugs, formulation of botanical drug for treatment of migraine and allergy, natural drug development. His areas of interest include botanical drugs, formulation of botanical drug, and herbal drugs. The research on herbal drugs as one his latest achievements helps the treatment of migraine and allergy.

Woei-Jye Lau

Dr. Lau is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Chemical and Energy Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and a Research Fellow at the Advanced Membrane Technology Research Centre (AMTEC), UTM. He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical-Gas Engineering (2006) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Chemical Engineering (2009) from UTM. Dr. Lau has a very strong research interest in the field of membrane science and technology for water applications. He has published over 100 scientific articles, 12 reviews and 10 book chapters. He also is the author/editor of the books - Nanofiltration Membranes: Synthesis, Characterization and Applications and Advanced Materials for Membrane Fabrication and Modification published by CRC Press. He is credited with 5 patents in the field of membrane science and technology with his collaborators from academia and industry. Dr. Lau is currently the co-editor for Journal of Applied Membrane Science & Technology and has been appointed as a guest editor for several peer-reviewed journals such as Chemical Engineering & Technology, Journal of Engineering Science & Technology and The Malaysian Journal of Analytical Sciences. Dr. Lau has received many national and international awards since he started his career. These include Australian Endeavour Research Fellowship 2015, UI-RESOLV Program 2016 (Indonesia), Mevlana International Exchange Program 2017/2018 (Turkey) and Sakura Exchange Program 2018 (Japan).

Anwar Ul-Hassan Gilani



Based at the Aga Khan University Medical College since last 32 years, where he occupied multiple leadership positions, Prof. Anwar Gilani has also served in East Africa as a Tandem Dean, as well as with Government of Pakistan as Chairman, Pakistan Council for Science and Technology on a 3-year tenure which concluded recently. He obtained his BSc (Hon) and MSc with distinction from Pakistan and PhD from University of Sydney in 1985 on open merit scholarship. Prof. Gilani established a research group on Ethnopharmacology which enjoys international recognition. He supervised research of 20 PhDs, all of them secured faculty positions and he has published around 400 articles and cited over 16,000 times with an h-index of 67 (Google Scholar). He occupied 1st national ranking in Pharmaceutical Sciences and won several national/ international research awards including Boehringer Ingelheim Award (Germany), Salam Prize by TWAS and Ibn-Al-Haytham Prize in Science. The Government of Pakistan has conferred him the title of Distinguished National Professor, Life-Time Academic Achievements Award, and two civil awards (Pride of Performance and Sitara-i-Imtiaz). He represented Pakistan in the area of Science, Technology and Health at several international forums including at the United Nations and WHO meetings. He has served as an advisor to WHO on Essential Medicine and International Foundation for Science. Prof. Gilani is a Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Science as well as a Fellow of TWAS – The World Academy of Sciences. He is currently a group leader of university thematic research on Functional Foods in cardio-metabolic disorders conducting translational studies.

Md. Eaqub Ali

Dr. Md. Eaqub Ali is a Research Associate Professor in the University of Malaya's Nanotechnology and Catalysis Research Centre (NANOCAT) at Kuala Lumpur. He obtained his BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Dhaka, MSc in Chemistry from Concordia University at Montreal and PhD in Nanobiotechnology from the University of Malaysia Perlis. He is also having a post-baccalaureate certificate in Bioinformatics from University of California San Cruz and Specialization in Genomic Data Science from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Skilled in Multidisciplinary Science (Molecular Biology, Genomics and Nanotechnology), Curriculum Development, Public Speaking, Faculty Development, and E-Learning, Dr. Ali has heavily worked on small DNA probes, multiplex PCR, nanomaterial functionalization, and bioconjugated beads for food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical authentication as well as water purification and desalination. He patented two PCR kits for Halal authentication and validated two qPCR methods with Shanghai GMO lab. He delivered 35 invited lectures, published two books, 135 peer reviewed articles and over 60 conference papers.

Abdul Jabbar

Dr. Abdul Jabbar is an Associate Professor in Veterinary Parasitology at the University of Melbourne, Australia. He graduated as a veterinarian in 2001 from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan. He then completed a Master (Hon) in Veterinary Parasitology in 2003 and served at the same University for four years as a Lecturer since 2002 before moving to Australia in 2007. Dr. Jabbar completed his PhD in 2010 and worked on vaccines against animal parasites. Since 2011, Dr. Jabbar has worked at the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, the University of Melbourne as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and Associate Professor. Currently, his research is focused on the epidemiology, diagnosis and control of parasites of socioeconomic importance. Dr. Jabbar has a number of patents for drugs against parasites of livestock. Dr. Jabbar has published more than 150 research papers, attracted funding to more than 2.5 million AUD and won a number of international awards in the recognition of his outstanding contributions.

Adel Obaid Sharif

Prof. Adel Sharif is a Professor of Water Engineering and Process Innovation and Founder Director of the Centre for Osmosis Research and Applications (CORA), at the University of Surrey since 2003. Prof. Sharif is a Chartered Chemical Engineer and a Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers. He is the winner of the 2005 Royal Society Brian Mercer Senior Award for Innovation in Science and Technology. He is also the winner of the 2008 Science Business first European Academic Enterprise Award in the Energy & Environment. In 2012, the University of Surrey was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Water Research at a reception by The Queen and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace, for which Prof's Sharif desalination work played a major role. More recently, Prof. has been awarded the Renewable Energy Pioneer of the Year 2018. Prof. Sharif and his team research innovations are currently commercialized by Modern Water Plc. with plants in Oman, India, China and elsewhere. He was awarded the Institute of Chemical Engineers 2011 Innovation and Excellence award in Water Supply. In 2016 his Water work was also showcased at the UK House of Lords. Prof. Sharif is a founder of Modern Water plc., a London Exchange AIM Market listed company. His research interests have been in the areas of Water, Energy and Food Systems with application in Desalination and Renewable Energy. He has over 160 publications and has supervised over 20 PhD theses and more than 50 MSc dissertations. He is an inventor and co-inventor of more than 25 inventions.

Adewale Adewuyi

Dr. Adewale Adewuyi holds a PhD in Industrial Chemistry from University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Over the years, his research activities has been on the industrial applications of underutilized seeds which cut across synthesis of polymer, biofuel and major oleochemicals and their use in wastewater treatment, the environment, corrosion control, medicine and food. He has published over 60 research articles in reputable internationally recognized journals and he has presented several papers at local and international conferences. He is a Senior Lecturer at Redeemer's University, Nigeria and his dream is to play an active role in building Science and Technology in developing nations.

Amin Ardeshirdavani

Dr. Amin Ardeshirdavani is currently a Research Associate of Bioinformatics at the University of KU Leuven. He received his PhD at the beginning of 2017 in Electrical Engineering from the Department of Electrical Engineering, division STADIUS under the supervision of Prof. Yves Moreau. During his PhD, Dr. Ardeshirdavani developed the first genomics data sharing platform in 2014 which is used by all the genetic centers in Belgium to ease the rare disease discovery. He conducts research on computational methods to analyze data generated by Next Generation Sequencing machines to study and interpret human genetic disorders. The main focus of his project is to design and develop the necessary data structures that support the massive amount of genomics data. Dr. Ardeshirdavani has been also elected as the president of BeSHG Workgroup on Clinical Genetic Bioinformatics and IT.

Imran Ali

Prof. Imran Ali, PhD; C Chem; FRSC (UK); Brand Ambassador of Bentham Science Publisher, is a Professor at Jamia MIllia Islamia Central University, New Delhi, India. He completed his PhD from Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India. He has a high scientific profile and excellent international reputation. He is a world recognized academician and researcher with scientific contribution through more than 425 publications including patents, books (published from USA, UK, the Netherlands), book chapters, research papers, technical reports, and conference presentations. He has research papers in Nature and Chemical Reviews of more than 50 impact factors. He has high citation totaling of 17,000 with an h-index of 60 and 209 i10-index. His research areas include nanotechnology for water treatment, and bioanalytical and medicinal chemistry. He is a leading researcher in nanotechnology and has synthesized a number of economic and green nano materials for water treatment. He is Editor-in-Chief, Editor and a member of the editorial board of many Journals. He has created safe water awareness in public by lectures and organizing seminars. He has been a Visiting Professor at King Saud University, Saudi Arabia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia and a consultant at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. He is member of several national and international societies. Based on his international recognition and high citation, Prof. Ali is designated as a Fellow and chartered chemist by Royal Society of Chemistry, London UK. His books and papers are being used as reference sources all over the world. The methods and technologies developed by him are also being used by many industries.

Fikrettin Sahin

Dr. Sahin is a Professor in the Department of Genetics and Bioengineering at Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey where he has been serving as a faculty member since 2003. Dr. Sahin completed his MSc and PhD at the Ohio State University, the Department of Plant Pathology from the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, USA, and his undergraduate studies at Ataturk University, Turkey. In 1997-1998, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher in Clinical Microbiology at the Western Ontario University/ Agri-Food CANADA, London, Canada. He has worked at Atatürk University, Turkey for 5 years starting from 1999 to 2003 until he moved to Faculty of Engineering at Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey. Dr. Sahin's research focuses on molecular characterization of plant, soil, food and animal or human associated microorganisms, biological properties of the molecules from medicinal plants, stem cell and cancer genetics. He is author of 350 scientific papers, 401 abstracts, 25 book chapters and 5 books, and has 120 granted patents and/or applications. Dr. Sahin has been awarded by a number of national and international institutions due to scientific contributions he has done throughout his academic life. Dr. Sahin currently serves as Chairman of Genetics and Bioengineering, Director of Biotechnology Institute, Coordinator of R & D and Analysis Central Laboratories. Dr. Sahin has been honored as the Principal Member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) in 2012, the TUBA Council member in 2013, Executive Committee Member, and Presidency of Turkey Health Institutes (TÜSEB) in 2015. Currently, Dr. Sahin leads R&D at Yeditepe University for development of novel agro biotechnological products, antimicrobial materials for medical use, and new treatments in Regenerative Medicine for cancer and degenerative diseases.

Jabir Hussain Syed

Dr. Jabir H. Syed is an Environmentalist holding a position of Assistant Professor at Department of Meteorology, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan. His research interests are mainly focused on atmospheric chemistry and the study of the impacts of aerosols on environment and climate. Furthermore, he has also worked in the field of ecotoxicology to establish a baseline data for all the major environmental contaminants in the environment of Pakistan. In addition, monitoring and analysis of organic pollutants has been remained his forte which has gained him national as well international recognition. Dr. Syed has extensive research experience and authored/co-authored around 46 research publications in international journals (SCI) with an impact factor of 174 and 1160 Google Scholar Citations (h-index: 22). He is also a well-known reviewer of many international research journals of Environmental Sciences & Engineering i.e., Environmental Science & Technology, Science of the Total Environment, Environmental Pollution, Journal of Hazardous Material, Chemosphere, Environment International, Ecotoxicology & Environmental Safety etc. Dr. Syed has been nominated as one of the best young researchers in the field of Earth & Environmental Sciences for the year 2017 by Pakistan Council for Science & Technology (PCST).

Kamaruzzaman Bin Sopian

Prof. Kamaruzzaman Sopian is presently a Professor in Renewable Energy and the Director of the Solar Energy Research Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. He obtained his BSc in Mechanical Engineering, University of Wisconsin- Madison in 1985, MSc in Energy Resources, University of Pittsburgh in 1989, and PhD in Mechanical Engineering, University of Miami in 1997. His main contributions and current area of research are in advanced solar photovoltaic systems (grid-connected photovoltaic, solar powered regenerative fuel cell, solar hydrogen production, silicon, thin films and organic solar cell) and advanced solar thermal systems (solar cooling, solar heat pump, solar assisted drying, combined photovoltaic thermal or hybrid collector). He has published over 680 articles in journals and proceedings (SCOPUS h-index =55, total citations = 10,500) and has delivered plenary and keynotes speeches at international conferences on renewable energy in over 25 countries. He has undertaken short assignments in about 10 countries for international agencies and programs such as UNDP-GEF, UNIDO, ASEAN EU-Energy Facility, ASEAN-Australia Economic Co-operation Program, ASEAN-CIDA, JSPS, British Council, ISESCO and UNESCO related to renewable energy technology. He is a Fellow of the Malaysia Academy of Sciences. He has received special awards for his renewable energy related products in major international innovation and invention competitions in Geneva, Brussels, Seoul, and Pittsburgh. He won several international awards in renewable energy including the IDB S&T Prize 2013, World Renewable Energy Network Pioneer Award 2012, the ASEAN Energy Awards (2005, 2007, 2013, 2014 and 2015) and Special Award for community engagement in renewable energy during the 18th World Renewable Energy Congress (2017) in Bahrain. He is the current Vice Chairman of the World Renewable Energy Network, United Kingdom. He was conferred the DPMP (Knightship) from HRH the Sultan of Perak, Malaysia.

Manzoor Hussain Soomro

Prof. Soomro is the President of ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF). He is a renowned Pakistani Scientist specializing in Crop Protection and Science Education. He has made outstanding contributions to Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI). He is popularly known for being a strong proponent of Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE) in the region. Prof. Soomro has demonstrated outstanding scholarship and extraordinary service to the scientific community in the ECO Region and globally. He is recipient of prestigious international and national academic awards and scholarships, remaining a top performer throughout his academic career. Prof. Soomro made a groundbreaking identification and diagnosis of the Epidemic of Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV), which resulted in essential protection mechanism of banana crop in Pakistan that had already claimed massive damage to the banana industry. This earned him the International Recognition and Appreciation, hence being elected on the Advisory Board of International Banana Network for Asia & Pacific. He has led and implemented over 30 Industrial Projects in Pakistan Science Foundation. He has developed and Implemented science programs with S&T Institutions, Universities, Provincial & District Governments, Scientific Societies and NGOs active in scientific and educational programs for the masses. He is an architect of many major scientific programs for international cooperation. In recognition of his contributions to science education and strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and France, the French Republic bestowed upon him their erstwhile Civil Award "Order of Academic Palms" in 2013. He has published over 190 important publications, several contributed books and chapters, and has had 6 industrial patents. He serves as the Regional Editor (West & Central Asia) of the Journal of Science, Technology Policy Management and Editor-in-Chief of the Pakistan Journal of Nematology.

Mohamad Azuwa Mohamed

Mohamad Azuwa Mohamed is a Lecturer/ Researcher at Centre of Advanced Materials and Renewable Energy (CAMARR), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia. He received his Bachelor of Science (Industrial Chemistry) and Master of Engineering (Gas) from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Fuel Cell Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. His area of expertise lies broadly in the preparation of innovative and cost-effective solutions in the fields of photocatalysis and membrane technology for energy and sustainable technology. He is also active in writing for scientific publications in high impact-factor international journals and book chapters. To date, despite his short career span as a researcher, he has published more than 30 articles in ISI/Scopus-indexed journals. His research publication has received more than 400 citations, and his current h-index is 12. He involves actively in journal peer-review practice as indicated by his recognition as an excellent reviewer by a number of highly reputable journals. Recently, he is a recipient of the prestigious award from Australian government under Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Research Fellowship becoming a junior visiting researcher at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Also, he is one of the recipients of JASSO Scholarship for one-year research attachment at Osaka University which focuses on simulation and material modelling based on theoretical quantum engineering. His current scientific interest is mainly focused on the bio-template synthesis of core-shell semiconductor-based functional materials for renewable energy and environmental science.

Mohammed Mehdi Farid

Prof. Mohammed Farid (BSc MSc PhD CEng FIChemE) has completed his BE in Chemical Engineering from the University of Baghdad, Iraq and ME and PhD in Chemical Engineering from University of Swansea, Wales in the UK. He was the Founder of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Basrah in 1983, which he has chaired until 1991. Following that, he worked as a full professor in Jordan University of Science and Technology (1991-1993), University of Science Malaysia (1993-1997) and since 1997 in the University of Auckland, New Zealand, where he is working as a Professor of Chemical and Materials Engineering (Personal Chair). He is a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, London and an active member of a number of international institutions. He has published more than 380 papers in international journals and refereed international conferences, 6 patents, 5 books, and 11 chapters in books. Farid has received a number of international awards such as the Matsumae International Fellowship from Japan (1986), the Hisham Hijjawi Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement in Research in Jordan (1993) and the Marie Curie Fellowship, from European Union (2010). He was invited as a keynote speaker to a large number of international conferences worldwide; such as iFOOD2013 in Hannover. In 2015, he was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Engineering and Food (IAEF). He is New Zealand representative of the International Institute for Engineering and Food. Farid is a world leader in research in energy storage and has established strong international collaborations in the area with a significant funding aiming to commercialize some of his innovative ideas.

Mohd Hafiz Dzarfan Othman

Dr. Mohd Hafiz Dzarfan Othman is an Associate Professor in School of Chemical and Energy Engineering and Director of Advanced Membrane Technology Research Centre (AMTEC). He received his Bachelor and Master degrees from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia and his PhD from Imperial College London, United Kingdom. His current research focus is on development of inexpensive ceramic/polymer membranes for environmental protection and energy generation. Until now, he has published more than 150 articles in ISI/Scopus-indexed journals and also inventor of 13 patents. He has also received more than 60 national and international awards/recognitions, for instance "MASS Young Researcher Award 2018", "Hitachi Scholarship Research Support Program 2018", "Special Award in Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF) 2017", "Best of the Best Award 19th Industrial Art and Technology Exhibition (INATEX2017)", "Asian Invention Excellence Award in 28th International Invention, Innovation & Tehnology Exhibition (ITEX'17)" and finalist of "2017 Asia-Pacific Economy Cooporation (APEC) Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education (ASPIRE Prize)". He is also an Exco of Young Scientist Network-Academy of Science Malaysia (YSN-ASM), a group of outstanding young scientists of Malaysian nationality. He was also selected as a member of prestigious Global Young Academy (GYA). As a prominent researcher in the membrane technology area, he was also appointed as the Editor of Jurnal Teknologi (Thomson Reuter and Scopus-indexed journal), Editor of Journal of Membrane Science and Research (Scopus-indexed journal) and Editorial Board of Journal of Applied Membrane Science and Technology and Lead Guest Editor for the International Journal of Polymer Science (ISI-indexed journal).

Mostafa Ghanei

Prof. Mostafa Ghanei is a Professor in Division of Respiratory Diseases, Department of Medicine, Baqiyatallah University. He studied Pulmonology in Tehran University of Medical Sciences, I.R. Iran. Apart from being the General Director of Pasteur institute of Iran and Deputy of Research and Technology of the Ministry of Health in different periods, he is currently the Vice Chancellor in Research in Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences. He has published more than 262 articles in prestigious journals with an h-index of 31. He has also authored 3 books. Prof. Ghanei is also a member of European Respiratory Society, Iranian Lung Society, National Board Exam in Respiratory Medicine, Member of American College of Chest Physicians, and Member of American Thoracic Society.

Naim Eqrar

Prof. Naim Eqrar has published a large number of scientific reports, and journal and conference papers. He has been editorial board member of 5 national journals and technical reviewer for over 10 scientific papers. He displays an extensive teaching in the field of hydrology, hydrogeology, water resources and hydrochemistry, particularly in water resources area of Afghanistan. Prof. Eqrar has taught over 25 years in geological department, Faculty of Geosciences, University of Kabul as a Dean, Head of department of Geology and professor of water resources and developed several course materials as a National training expert for national and international agencies at various levels. He has supervised over 50 training courses. Currently he has memberships of Supreme Council of Land and Water of Afghanistan (SCoLWA), National Hydrological Committee of Afghanistan (NHCA), and is a member of several steering committee of water resources project in water line ministries of Afghanistan. He is the nation training expert in NORPLAN project for groundwater development atlas of Faryab province, 2012-2015. He is the author of chapter two for the third human development report (Managing Water resources, scarcity and climate shock of Afghanistan / UNDP/2011) and chapter four of the book of Trans-boundary water resources of Afghanistan (climate change impact and land use implication) published by Nebraska University in May, 2016. Prof. Eqrar participated as a guest professor, speaker, presenter, and country representative in several conferences, workshops (USA, United Kingdom/UK, Norway, Germany, Belgium, Iran, Nepal, China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, Republic of Russia, and Czech Republic). Prof. Eqrar has recently (2014-2016) developed his PhD thesis in Boon University-Germany where he will defend it in 2018. The thesis topic is Hydrogeology and Hydrochemistry of Kabul.

Qaisar Mahmood

Dr. Qaisar Mahmood has a 22-year of broad-based local and international academic and research experience in life sciences and environmental sciences in application of living process biochemistry for the environmental remediation of toxic metals, dyes, inorganic and organic pollutants. He has special experience in phytoremediation of toxic metals, dyes and anaerobic treatment of domestic and industrial wastewaters through processes like denitrification, Anammox and related nitrogen removal biotechnologies. He has newly focused on biofuels production from various biomasses. Dr. Mahmood has published over 220 research articles with cumulative impact factor of >450 with more than 6000 citations (h-index=41). He was declared Best University Teacher by HEC (2009), conferred with Tamgha i Imtiaz (2011) and won Fulbright Post-Doctoral Award USA (2012). In 2016, he was awarded Gold Medal in Earth and Environmental Sciences by Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He was part of two best research papers awards by HEC. He is the editor of various international research journals and acted as Publication Chair for Agriculture and Biology Conference for years 2015 and 2016. Dr. Mahmood explored physiology and genetic potential of giant reed plant for the first time and supervised two PhD scholars on this plant only. His research group published a number of research articles on this plant alone in world's prestigious journals with a high impact factor. He won many national and international research grants. He is currently working to establish wetlands in collaboration with some industries. He is a member of Board of Studies of at least a dozen universities and rendered valuable services for HEC curriculum development for Environmental Engineering since 2011. He served as member of selection boards of many universities along acting as a reviewer of over 30 international journals.

Rassoul Dinarvand

Prof. Dinarvand received his Pharm. D. from University of Tehran in 1988. He successfully completed his MSc in 1990 and his PhD in 1993 in the field of Controlled Drug Delivery Systems at the University of Manchester, UK. He then joined Faculty of Pharmacy, Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 1994 as a faculty member. He was promoted to a full professor in Pharmaceutics in 2005. He became the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 2009 for 4 years. Prof. Dinarvand has been active in the pharmaceutical administration in both industry and government at the highest level: seven years as CEO of several Pharmaceutical companies and twice (8 years) as Deputy Minister of Health and Chair of Iran Food and Drug Administration. He has also been involved in pharmacoeconomy and national drug policy research. However, his main research interest is in the area of polymeric controlled drug delivery systems. He has published over 300 international papers in this field. In recent years he has focused on the design and application of nano-structures as targeted drug delivery systems mainly in the field of cancer treatment. He is the founder and director of Nanotechnology Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He has won several national prizes for his research achievements. Three spin-off knowledge-based companies active in the field of research and development and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals are the results of his group works.

Saghir Akhtar

Prof. Saghir Akhtar is a Professor of Pharmacology at the College of Medicine, Qatar University and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Drug Targeting. He was previously a Professor of Drug Delivery in the Welsh School of Pharmacy and Director for the Centre for Genome-based Therapeutics, Cardiff University, UK and more recently was a Professor of Molecular Pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University. Prof. Akhtar obtained a First Class honours degree in Pharmacy from the Leicester School of Pharmacy (UK) and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Bath in the UK. He was a post-doctoral Fellow at the University of North Carolina Medical School at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, before joining Aston University (Birmingham, UK), firstly as a lecturer and then as a Reader in Pharmaceutical Sciences. In 1997, he was a visiting Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry, Oxford University, UK (with Professor Ed Southern). Prof. Akhtar's research and teaching has been recognized internationally with the award of several prestigious prizes including the Lilly Prize, the Pfizer Academic Award, the British Pharmaceutical Conference Science Medal, the USA Controlled Release Society Young Investigator Research Achievement Award, the Kappa Society Science Award (UK) and the Fazlur Rahman Khan Award for Excellence in Engineering, Science and Technology (London, UK). Prof. Akhtar has published extensively in the fields of cancer and diabetes. His current research interests include studying molecular pharmacology and signal transduction pathways involved in diabetes-induced cardiovascular dysfunction, and the toxicogenomic and cell-signaling effects of drug delivery systems.

Amirhossein Karagah

Dr. Karagah received his Doctor of Pharmacy(Pharm.D) at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (2006-2012) and his Master of Business Administration at Tehran University (2012-2014). He has been the Board Secretary of Iranian Society of Manufacturers and Exporters of Medical Biotechnology Products (S.E.M.Bio) and Marketing Expert at Parsian Pharmaceutical Group. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer at PersisGen.

Mohd Razman Salim

Prof. Mohd Razman Salim is a senior research Fellow at Centre for Environmental Sustainability and Water Security (IPASA), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). He received his BSc Civil Engineering from Brighton Polytechnic; Masters from North Carolina State University and PhD from University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He is devoted to his working career in teaching and research, graduating more than 70 students under his supervision. In 1997, he was awarded Commonwealth Fellowship (ACU) developing research in Biotechnology at University of Newcastle upon Tyne. From 1996-2002, he was appointed UTM's coordinator and research Fellow for JSPS/ LIPI-DOST-VCC Biotechnology program. He served as a visiting scientist at Osaka and Kumamoto Universities. He was engaged in collaborative research under CICHE, SIDA and DUCED, conducting capacity building programs in wastewater treatment and waste management. He collaborated in more than 60 research and consultancy projects, publishing more than 180 articles (journals and proceedings). He was appointed as a task force member by Akademi Sains Malaysia, conducting study on water and wastewater management. Dr. Salim is the co-inventor of seven filed patents, including three granted patents. As a co-researcher, he conducted studies on "Low Carbon Society for Iskandar Regions" under sponsorship of JICA. He received awards from several research competitions, both national and international-INATEX (2008, 2010), PEREKA (2010), MTE (2011) dan SIIF (2011). His active involvements were recognized where he received the University Excellence Award (2002, 2011); Research Award (Group) in 2004; and Publication Award (Article and Index Journal Category) in 2010. In 2018, he received the Top Research Scientist Malaysia (TRSM) awarded by Akademi Sains Malaysia. Dr. Salim is a member of International Water Association (IWA) and Malaysian Water Association (MWA). Currently, he is the committee member for a registered NGO called Malaysian Society of Waste Management and Environment (MSWME).

Seyed Mojtaba Atarodi

Prof. Atarodi obtained his PhD in Electronic Engineering (Integrated circuits and microelectronics) from the University of South California (USC). He has developed 7 products in the field of Integrated circuits such as Smart card and Simcard chips, DVB tuner for digital TV-receiver, Set-Top Box for digital TV, CODEC for linecards, HDLC IC for fixed-line telephone linecadrs, a 32 bit RISC processor with silicon-proof, a crypto-processor (holding a patent on it), etc. He has published more than 120 journal and conference papers in the prestigious IEEE journals and conferences. He is also the developer and the owner of a Java-based Operating System (OS) for smart cards and Simcards. As a senior member of IEEE, he holds a US patent. He has been working with Linear Technology Corporation from 1993 to 1997 in Silicon Valley, California, USA, and has been consulting several IC companies there. Dr. Atarodi has been the founder and CEO of Emad Semicon out of which several startups in Iran has been founded. Mentoring young engineers and entrepreneurship has been amongst his activities for the last 20 years. His current research is on IoT solutions and chipset, Smartcard Operating System development, and integrated circuit systems, and analog and N-Path filters. He is the chairman of Iran Microelectronic Association.

Muhammad Farooq

Dr. Muhammad Farooq is an Associate Professor in Crop Sciences at the Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman. He also holds positions of an Associate Professor in Agronomy at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, Adjunct Associate Professor at University of Western Australia, and Adjunct Professor at Dankook University, South Korea. He had also been working at the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines (2007-2008), Centre of Environment and Life Sciences, CSIRO Plant Industry, Australia (2010); University of Giessen, Germany (2011-2012) and University of Hohenheim, Germany (2016). Dr. Farooq is recipient of fellowships from Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Science (2007), Australian Endeavour Awards (2010), and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany (2011, 2016). He is Young Affiliate fellow of the World Academy of Sciences and is regular recipient of Research Productivity Award from Pakistan Council of Science and Technology since 2007. He received 'Best Young Research Scholar Award' from Pakistan for the years 2013 and 2014. He was honored with the COMSTECH Award for Excellence in Research (2016), Gold Medal (2017), and the best University Teacher Award (2018). His research, on crop water relations and adaptation to dryland environments, has encompassed providing fundamental understanding of the response of crops to abiotic stresses. He has developed seed enhancements for improving crop performance under less than optimum field conditions, and for delivery of micronutrients. He devised technologies for cost-effective biofortification of grain crops with essential minerals like zinc. He is among the pioneers to develop non-chemical weed control, through allelopathy, in field crops. Dr. Farooq optimized, developed, and popularized conservation agricultural systems, for rice-wheat cropping system, in Punjab, Pakistan. He has edited and co-edited six books, and authored and co-authored more than 295 research articles and 32 book chapters. His citations, on Google Scholar, exceed 13,960.

Oguz Okay

Prof. Oguz Okay is currently a full Professor of Physical Chemistry at Istanbul Technical University and a principal member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA). He received his BSc and MSc degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Istanbul in 1977 and a PhD degree in Polymer Chemistry from Vienna Technical University, Austria in 1981. He was a visiting professor at the University of Stuttgart, Technical University of Dresden, University of Colorado, Boulder, Technical University of Clausthal, and Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin. He is recipient of several awards including Georg-Forster Research Award from Germany (2015), the Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Council (TÜBITAK) Science Award (2005), Turkish Chemical Society Honorary Member Award (2006), Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship (1988), and Sedat Simavi Natural Sciences Award (1995). He is an editorial board member of the Turkish Journal of Chemistry, and one of the series editors of Advances in Polymer Science, Springer, Germany. His research expertise includes design/synthesis of soft and smart polymeric materials. His laboratory has been leading contributors in the areas of self-healing materials, macroporous polymer gels, organogels, oil sorbents, reactive microgels, hydrogels, supramolecular materials, and rubber elasticity. His research group expanded the application of the cryogelation technique towards the organic media to produce high-toughness macroporous organogels based on several rubbers. They patented these macroporous rubbers as reusable oil sorbent for the removal of oil spill from waters, which is very important for Okay's country. He has 4 patents and published around 200 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals. His h-index is 51 with about 9000 citations.

Rasit Turan

Dr. Raşit Turan completed his BSc and MSc degrees at the Physics Department of Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey. He received his PhD from University of Oslo, Norway in 1990. He worked as Postdoc at Linköping University, Sweden. He joined METU Physics Department as a faculty member in 1991. He worked as a visiting scientist at the Material Science Department of Toronto University, Canada in 1996. His main research interests have been physics and technology of semiconductor materials and devices including solar cells. He has published more than 200 scientific papers in this field in the internationally recognized journals. He has supervised 12 PhD and about 25 MSc studies. Dr. Turan has coordinated many national and international projects; among them are European FP6 projects SEMINANO, and METU-CENTER which have been among the largest research and support projects. In 2009, together with a team from different departments of METU, he founded a new research center called Center for Solar Energy Research and Applications (GÜNAM). GÜNAM has grown rapidly and attracted nationwide and international attention. It has become the most comprehensive research center on solar energy conversion in the whole Eastern Mediterranean region. Recently, a national solar energy system development project, called MILGES, has been given to the consortium where GÜNAM is a key member for solar cell development. He is actively taking part in many national and international projects. Among them, EU FP7 projects called EU-Solaris, CHEEAT, and the project called "PV Smart Skin" supported by QNRF of Qatar can be mentioned.

Mohammad Reza Lornejad

Dr. M.R. Lornejad is Co-founder, President, and CEO of the Private Joint Stock company Pioneer Research Anahita and Associate Professor at Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics at University of Tehran, Iran. He studied biology at the University of Duesseldorf, Germany. At the local University Women's Hospital, he received his diploma with molecular biological studies on steroid hormone resistance in endometrial cancer. He completed his PhD at the local Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology. With the thesis entitled "Development of an in vitro model to evaluate the biocompatibility of peritoneal dialysates on resident and transient peritoneal cells" he won 1998 Nils Alwall Award and 1999 Rheinisch-Westfaelischer Award. Subsequently, he joined the local Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Infectious Diseases and worked 4 years on signal transduction mechanisms leading to hepatic insulin resistance as a postdoctoral researcher at the Collaborative Research Center "Experimental Hepatology". After he changed over as a senior postdoc and Assistant Professor to the Institute of Biological Chemistry and Nutrition at the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany, he focused for 3 years research on nutritional effects on age-related macular degeneration in cooperation with the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tuebingen. In Linz, Austria he was a senior scientist & deputy of zet-Life Science Laboratory, zet from 2007- 2008 and from 2009 –2015 of BioMed zet Life Science GmbH, he carried out research on cell membranes, cell barriers, drug discovery and development of human 3D cell and tissue models. His current research focus lies on cancer cell biology and drug resistance.

Wael Mamdouh Ahmed

Dr. Wael Mamdouh is an "Associate Professor" of Nanotechnology, and the leader of the largest dynamic research groups at the American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt; "Biomedical Polymer Nanocomposites, Hydrogels and Tissue Engineering". He received his MSc and PhD in Chemistry from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) in Belgium in 2002 and 2005, and his BSc degree in Science: Chemistry from Ain Shams University, Egypt in 1997. His research is focused on designing novel polymer nanocomposites, electrospun nanofibers, nanoparticles, Drug delivery nanocarriers, antibacterial nanocoatings and nanoscaffolds for wound dressings and tissue/bone/cartilage regeneration, Nanocosmetics, Nanoporous membranes for biomedical and packaging applications. His h-index is 20; he has published many papers in international journals such as Nature, Scientific Reports, ACS NANO, with more than 3200 citations worldwide. He has a number of published U.S. patents related to Nanoparticle-based Combinatorial Therapy for Breast Cancer Therapy, and Essential oils nanoparticles and polysaccharides Nanofibers for Antibacterial and Prebiotic applications. Dr. Mamdouh is the founder of a recent Spinoff Company (NANO-Fib-TECH) for producing innovative nanotechnology-based antibacterial and disinfectant nanofibers liquids for healthcare industry. This was funded by the Academy of Scientific Research & Technology (ASRT) in Egypt and incubated in collaboration with Bedaya Center for Entrepreneurship & SMEs Development (GAFI), Ministry of Investments in Egypt. Recently, Dr. Mamdouh won the first place prize among 200 participants for the best startup in the 3rd Cairo International Exhibition of Innovation (Cairo Innovates 2016), November 19-20 organized by ASRT and supported by the Office of Scientific cooperation and Technology at the French Embassy in Egypt.

Mahmood Yaghoubi

Prof. M. Yaghoubi obtained his BSc and MSc from Shiraz University in 1970 and 1972, respectively. He received his PhD from Mechanical Engineering School of Purdue University, USA (1978). He is a professor at Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran. He has published more than 190 articles in various international and national journals, two books (one book with Prof. Bahadori, honored by the President of I.R. Iran as the book of the year) and more than 210 papers in national and international conferences. His main research areas are: solar energy, concentrating solar power plant, passive cooling, convective heat transfer, energy systems and engineering education. He has been a visiting professor at Palermo University, Italy (1987), and at Colorado State University, USA (1994). Prof. Yaghoubi obtained several honors and awards among which are: Abadi Award from Iranian Ministry of Housing; Iranian Distinguished National Scholars; Kharazmi International Award; Islamic Cultural and Educational Award; Distinguished National Professor of Iran; Tabatabi National Award, Iranian National Elite Foundation; Distinguished National Professor of Afzalipoor Award from Kerman University; One year scholarship from International Center for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy; Distinguished Mechanical Engineering Professor from Iranian Society of Mechanical Engineers; Distinguished Professor for four times of Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran. Prof. Yaghoubi is a fellow member of Iran Academy of Sciences; Member of ASME(1988-2015); Member of the International Advisory Committee of World Renewable Energy Congress(1996-2000); Fellow member of Iranian Society of Mechanical Engineers; Scientific Chair of several national conferences; Editor-in-Chief of Iranian Journal of Sciences and Technology (1995-2010), managing director of Iranian Journal of Engineering Education, managing director of Mechanical Engineering, ISME.

Arif Hepbasli

Dr. Arif Hepbasli, who has dealt with energy-related issues for 36 years (of which ten years were spent working in various Turkish industries while the remainder has been spent teaching at different universities since 1996), is a Professor and Founding Chairman of Energy Systems Engineering Department at Yaşar University in Izmir, Turkey. He worked as a Visiting Professor between 2004-2005 at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Canada, and between 2010-2012 at King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. His research has been involved with energy, exergy, exergoeconomic and exergoenvironmental analyses and assessments of energy-related systems, energy/exergy efficiency and management systems/standards, ground-source and wastewater heat pumps, utilization and potential of renewable energy sources and sustainable energy technologies. Dr. Hepbasli is also a Certified Energy Manager in Turkey while he is the author and co-author of over 650 papers as of November 7, 2018 over 295 SCI-based papers with academic footprints of 48, 53 and 66, and citations of 7589, 10003 and 15075 on the Web of Science (WOS), Scopus and Google Scholar basis, respectively, on a national and international basis as well as several national and international books and book chapters. He has served as a consultant for industry in cases involving his research area and is also a member in the International Advisory Board of various prestigious energy-related journals and an Associate Editor of Journal of Energy Engineering (ASCE) while also serving many energy journals and industrial projects as a reviewer. He has been a member of Energy Working Group at Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) since February 16, 2017.

Adeel Mahmood

Dr. Adeel Mahmood is working as the Head of Department of Environmental Sciences, GC Women University Sialkot, Pakistan. He has completed his PhD in Environmental Biology and Ecotoxicology from Quaid-I-Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan. Dr. Adeel spent four years as a Research Scientist in China, where he was awarded a prestigious PIFI Presidential Fellowship to conduct research in Environmental Sciences and Engineering. Scientific achievement in credit of Adeel are 70 (Approx.) SCI Publication with 175 IF, Research Productivity Award from PCST, Pakistan since last three years, Ranked among top 5 positions as environmental scientist of Pakistan by PCST, Pakistan, Presidential Fellowship in 2016 by Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, Award of PDRA Fellowship by Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, China, Research grant from International Organization (WWF), national research grants. He has international recognition as Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Toxic Metals; and their Risk Assessment expert, where he is running strong and productive international collaborations. Currently his research activities includes Occurrence, spatial and temporal trends, atmospheric transport and source identification of inorganic and Persistent Organic Pollutants [POPs] in aquatic and terrestrial and biotic resources of Pakistan; their effects on form and functionality of biota, and ecological systems; species level to assess the ecological integrity and health conditions of an ecosystem; risks profiling of Solid Waste Dumping sites; exploration and documentation of medicinal flora, safety and efficacy of ethno medicines; investigation of bio-active compounds from indigenous medicinal plants via different bioassays.

Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary

Prof. M. Iqbal Choudhary is Director and Professor of Bioorganic and Natural Product Chemistry at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (H. E. J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research). He has completed his school and college education in Karachi and was admitted in University of Karachi to pursue his BSc in 1980 followed by his MSc in Organic Chemistry in 1983. Prof. Choudhary joined the research group of Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, FRS in 1984 as one of the PhD students in world renowned H.E. J. Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi in 1984. He then moved to the Pennsylvania State University, USA as National Science Foundation (NSF) scholar and completed his PhD research and secured his PhD degree in 1987. After completing his PhD, he proceed to Cornell University, Ithaca, USA for his postdoctoral studies and completed his research work on single-crystal X-ray Diffraction studies of novel natural products. He was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry University of Karachi in 1988 and secured the position of Associate Professor and finally the Professor in 1994 and 2000, respectively. Since 1990, Prof. Choudhary has been among the world leaders in the field of natural product chemistry, and has made pioneering contributions in the discovery of novel natural products. He has discovered many potent anti-epileptic and anti-leishmanial compounds from indigenous medicinal plants that are under clinical trials. His contributions to reverse bacterial resistance to antibiotics represent seminal contributions in this important field. Prof. Choudhary has 1016 publications (Citations 13,000, h-index=44) in the fields of organic and bioorganic chemistry, along with 60 international patents (46 US Patents), 59 books and 40 chapters in books, published by major U.S. and European presses. On the basis of his research, 73 students have been awarded PhD degrees in various areas of natural product and bioorganic chemistry.

Ashraf Talib Al-Hinai

Dr. Al-Hinai received his PhD from Pennsylvania State University in 2002 in Materials Science and Engineering. He worked in the chemistry department in SQU till 2015, where he was involved in chemistry and materials science education and research. He currently works for PDO in the graduate development program of material, corrosion, and integrity department.

Salim Hamood Al Harthi

Dr. Salim Al Harthi is an Associate Professor in surface physics and nanotechnology. He has taught both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in physics and advised more than 60 undergraduate students. He has also successfully guided and supervised 12 MSc and 6 PhD candidates and contributed in training of many technical staff at the college. He has been a principal investigator for many internal and His Majesty projects and a co-investigator in certain TRC, industrial and collaborative research projects. He has published over 100 papers in international journals, 150 technical reports/proposals and 15 papers in conference proceedings. Dr. Al Harthi has also a 10-year experience as the General Manager of a leading logistics company in Oman. He has also co-founded the enlightenment consultancy company and acted as the scientific advisor to Omicron Nanotechnology Company from Germany for 2 years. Furthermore, Dr. Al Harthi is a co-director of AIAP and a member of SQU nanotechnology team and is involved in teaching and promoting innovation at SQU. He has contributed in building the research capabilities of SQU, by being the pioneer in establishing the first surface science and nanotechnology laboratories in Oman and was also the leader of the surface science and nanotechnology research group in the college of science at SQU. In the last 26 years, he has been very active in the field of microscopy where he supported different colleges in setting up the specification requirements, commissioning, maintenance and training of staff in atomic force and electron microscopy. Presently, he is the chairman of the SQU electron microscopy committee. Dr. Al Harthi is the head of the risk management team and a risk management director at SQU, and is responsible for establishing the complete risk management system at SQU, enabling him to make immense contributions to the development of risk management processes, infrastructure and safety.

Mohammed Zahir Al-Abri

Dr. Mohammed Zahir Al-Abri is an Assistant Professor in Petroleum & Chemical Engineering Department, College of Engineering at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), Oman. In addition to his academic position, he is the Director of Nanotechnology Research Center, SQU. He completed all his tertiary education from University of Nottingham (UK) from 2003-2007. His major interest lies in cutting-edge research in water treatment, membrane technology and environmental engineering including applications of nanotechnology in water and petroleum industries. Dr. Al-Abri has several major research projects in different areas of water treatment and desalination, nanotechnology for environmental and renewable energy applications, and membrane technology. He has more than 30 international journal papers, 25 international conferences, 15 technical reports and two book chapters. Dr. Al-Abri is a member of a number of international editorial boards. He organized and co-organized several international conferences in nanotechnology and water treatment.

Mahad Said Baawain

Dr. Mahad Said Baawain is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering, Sultan Qaboos University. He obtained his BSc in Civil Engineering, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman in 1998, MSc in Environmental Engineering, Imperial College, UK in 2000, and PhD in Environmental Engineering, University of Alberta, Canada in 2007. His research interest covers several areas among environmental engineering and management. Dr. Baawain has a number of major research projects and consultancy services during the last 10 years with a total value of around 6.5 million USD in different areas of environmental engineering and management (water & wastewater treatment, solid waste management and air pollution modeling). Dr. Baawain has more than 75 international journal papers, 50 international conference, 20 technical reports and several book chapters. Dr. Baawain served as the Chair of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Collaborative Committee from 2011 to 2016. He has served as the Director of Center for Environmental Studies and Research at Sultan Qaboos University from February 2013 to February 2016.

Rahma Ibrahim Al-Mahrooqi

Dr. Rahma Al-Mahrooqi, Sultan Qaboos University's Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research, is an Associate Professor of English at the College of Arts and Social Sciences. Among many academic and administrative positions held, she coordinated tertiary English courses and an ESP program for SQU's College of Science and for almost four years she was SQU's Language Center Director. Dr. Al-Mahrooqi was also the Director of Sultan Qaboos University's Humanities Research Center for a year and a half. She has published widely on English language teaching and learning in Oman with major focus areas in teaching, reading, literature, culture, English communication skills, and Arabic as a native language. Dr. Al-Mahrooqi co-edited 10 books on the above-mentioned areas. A creative write, Dr. Al-Mahrooqi has also published poetry and prose in her native language, Arabic. Since her appointment as Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research, she has been working towards the promotion of research, postgraduate studies, innovation and entrepreneurship at SQU in particular and in Oman in general.

Sammer Yousuf

Dr. Sammer Yousuf is an Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry at the H. E. J. Research Institute of Chemistry, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi. She is among the most promising young female scientists of Pakistan, recognized for her original contributions in the field of structural and bioorganic chemistry. She is the author of over 170 research papers in top international journals, and five chapters of books, with cumulative impact factor of 250, total citations exceeding 890. She has solved st5uctures of many novel and interesting natural products by using single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies and demonstrated her in-depth understanding of the X-ray technique, as well as organic chemistry. She is also the pioneer of crystal engineering in Pakistan, where structural, physio-chemical, and biological properties of co-crystals are extensively studied. Her discovery of anti-leishmanial constituents from a local medicinal plant Physlais minima is an excellent example of basic to translational research. This discovery has been patented in USA and selected for clinical trails under a Sindh Government funded project. Based on her contributions in the field of structural and medicinal chemistry, she has received prestigious TWAS Regional Prize for Young Scientist from Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in 2011, and has also been elected as TWAS Young affiliate in 2013.

Sergey V. Dobretsov

Dr. Sergey Dobretsov is the Director of Centre of Excellence in Marine Biotechnology and an Associate Professor in the Department of Marine Science and Fisheries, Sultan Qaboos University. He obtained his MSc in Biology-Zoology, Leningrad State University, Russia in 1991 and his PhD in Biology, Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia in 1998. His main field of research focuses on marine biotechnology for the development of new non-toxic antifouling solutions and antimicrobial drugs. He has worked with polar, temporal, and tropical marine organisms in different parts of the world. Dr. Dobretsov has 26 years of teaching and 28 years of research experience. He has a number of international research projects and consultancy services with a total value of around 2 million USD. He published more than 90 peer review international articles, 2 books and 10 book chapters and obtained 5 patents. Dr. Dobretsov is the president of European Society for Marine Biotechnology. He has worked in leading marine research centers in Russia, Hong Kong, Germany, and the USA. He is on the editorial boards of the journals Marine Ecology Progress Series and Biofouling.

Khaled B. Letaief

Dr. Letaief is a Chair Professor at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (HKUST). While at HKUST he served as Dean of Engineering and Head of Electronic and Computer Engineering department. Under his leadership, HKUST Engineering School has dazzled in international rankings (rising from # 26 in 2009 to # 14 in the world in 2015 according to QS World University Rankings). He received the BSc degree with distinction, MSc, and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University, USA in 1984, 1986, and 1990, respectively. Dr. Letaief is an internationally recognized leader in wireless communications and networks with research interest in big data analytics systems, tactile Internet, 5G systems and beyond. In these areas, he has over 600 papers along with 15 patents and is the recipient of many distinguished awards including the 2016 IEEE Marconi Prize Award in Wireless Communications and over 15 IEEE best paper awards. Dr. Letaief is well recognized for his dedicated service to professional societies and in particular IEEE where he has served in many leadership positions including President of the IEEE Communications Society, the world's leading organization for communications professionals with headquarter in New York City and members in 162 countries. He served as consultants for different organizations including Huawei, ASTRI, ZTE, Nortel, PWC, and Motorola. He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications and has been involved in organizing many flagship international conferences around the world. Dr. Letaief is a Fellow of IEEE and a Fellow of HKIE. He is also recognized by Thomson Reuters as an ISI Highly Cited Researcher.

Omar Awadh Al-Rawas

Prof. Omar Al-Rawas is the Director of SQU Medical Research Centre. He received his undergraduate (MBChB) and postgraduate training and research (Clinical Training in Respiratory Medicine and PhD) from University of Glasgow, UK. He is a Professor and Senior Consultant Pulmonologist at the Department of Medicine of College of Medicine and Health Sciences (COMHS) & Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH). He is a member of Council of Trustees of Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB) and the Council of Trustees of Arabian Gulf University and Chairman of the National Committee for Respiratory Service. His research focus is on lung function in health and disease, epidemiology of respiratory conditions in Oman, especially Asthma. He is the Country Coordinator in the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Children (ISAAC). He contributed to more than 90 publications in peer-reviewed journals in these areas, in addition to many conference presentations and published abstracts. He provides tertiary clinical care as Senior Consultant Pulmonologist in SQUH with referrals from all over Oman. Leadership positions held in the past include; Dean of COMHS - SQU, Chairman of SQUH Board, Head of Department of Medicine, COMHS, President of Oman Medical Association; Chairman of OMSB Internal Medicine Scientific Committee; Chairman of the Health Sector Open Grant Committee of the Oman Research Council.

Fatma Ali Al Ma'Mari

Dr. Fatma Al Ma'Mari is Assistant Professor in Physics Department at Sultan Qaboos University. She has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Leeds (UK) in 2016. She joined the Condensed Matter Physics group at the University of Leeds after her PhD as a visiting researcher in conjunction with Sultan Qaboos University. She undertook her undergraduate studies at Sultan Qaboos University before taking a Master's degree at the University of Loughborough. She is interested in experimental condensed matter research in magnetism and spintronics. Dr. Fatma has achieved an excellent record of publications amongst the best in the field. She has involved in a team of scientists from the University of Leeds who have demonstrated for the first time how to generate magnetism in metals that are not naturally magnetic. Her research has featured in Nature, with a News report in their front website and a News & Views article in the same journal issue reporting the findings. She also published in Nature Nanotechnology, Nature Material and PNAS which are the top journals in physics field. Currently, she works in establishing research collaborations with different institutes in nanotechnology-based spintronics for electronic, power or computing applications.

Max Paoli

With a BSc (Hons.) in Biochemistry and a DPhil in Chemistry, Dr. Max Paoli worked in the area of protein structure and molecular recognition for almost 20 years. His research work took him from York, UK, to laboratories in New Zealand and the US, including the Harvard Medical School. With academic positions in Australia and in the UK, he was also a BBSRC David Phillips Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK, for 5 years. Dr. Max and his group solved the structures of several protein-ligand complexes and published research articles in peer-reviewed international journals. He taught both entry level and advanced university courses, and supervised over a dozen PhD and MSc students. He was a course convener in Australia where he developed a lecture series on proteomics. In Cambridge, he was a tutor at St. John's College. Dr. Max Paoli has worked with the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) for the last three years, serving as Programme Coordinator. He is in charge of overlooking the activities of the Academy, such as the PhD and Postdoctoral Fellowships, Research Grants, Exchanges, Prizes. Dr. Max Paoli is interested in various issues related to the use of science and scientific education for sustainable development, and has lectured on sustainability and the SDGs.

Yusuf Baran

Prof. Yusuf Baran has been working as a full professor at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir Turkey. After receiving his bachelor degree in Dicle University, Department of Biology (1994-1998), he earned his MSc and PhD degrees in 2002 and 2006, respectively, in the Middle East Technical University, Department of Biology. During his PhD studies, he worked in the Medical University of South Carolina for 6 months in 2005. He has been as a Faculty at Izmir Institute of Technology, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics since 2007. Dr. Yusuf Baran has been involved in more than 35 scientific research projects supported by national and international organizations. He has co-authored in more than 350 papers in peer-reviewed journals and abstracts. His scientific achievements have been recognized and awarded by national and international accredited institutions holding more than 100 awards. Prof. Yusuf Baran has been honored as "2013 Young Scientist" by World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2013. Dr. Baran's selection is in recognition of his academic excellence, commitment to society and potential to change the world through science. He got "Outstanding Young Person of Turkey in Scientific Leadership Award", by International Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs in 2014. Dr. Baran also earned "Science Award" by Turkish Academy of Pharmacy in 2017, "Outstanding Young Scientist Award" by Experimental Hematology Association in 2016, by Science Heroes Association in 2014, and by Turkish Academy of Sciences in 2010. Dr. Baran focused on molecular biology of cancer, science policies and science diplomacy.

Ahmad Zaharin Aris

Prof. Ahmad Zaharin Aris specializes in the field of Hydrochemistry, Environmental Chemistry and Analysis, and Environmental Forensics. He played a key role in establishing the environmental forensics context and accelerates the research and policy strategies that now have become parts of the Malaysia Transformation Plan. He involved in more than 50 projects locally and internationally and published more than 280 academic writings with over 3300 citations and has few patents and a copyright. The Elsevier's Scival Spotlight has ranked him third among the list of global experts under the category of Distinguished Competency of water quality, sediment and pollution. This extraordinary accomplishment has granted him with prestigious awards such as Young Scientist and Vice Chancellor Fellowship Award, SEARCA Professorial Chair, The Golden Globe Tigers Award 2017 – Best Professor in Environmental Studies, shortlisted for Zayed International Prize, and 1st runner up for 2016 National Young Scientist Award. He is currently an Editorial Board Member for Scientific Reports (Q1), Associate Editor for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (Q1), Guest Editor for Chemosphere (Q1) special issue journal on "Drinking Water Quality – New Issues, Risks & Solutions", and many more. Some of his research findings have been used to set up national guidelines and policies on environmental issues. He sits as a steering committee member and expert advisor to the Department of Environment Malaysia in their "Legislative Provisions for Inclusion of Environmental Forensic in Prosecution" and responsible for its policy ratification.

Kamran Bagheri Lankarani

Professor Kamran Bagheri Lankarani specialized in internal medicine and attained an advanced fellowship degree in gastroenterology at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran. He was the minister of Health and Medical Education, vice chancellor of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, manager of Shiraz Nemazee Hospital, and head of the internal medicine department. Now, he is distinguished professor of internal medicine and works as a director in Health Policy Research Center and head of online MPH program, with a focus on health policy, affiliated to Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. He is also the head of health promotion group in Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. Furthermore, he serves as a chairman of International Journal of School Health and Women's Health Bulletin and editor in chief of Shiraz E Medical Journal and Annals of Colorectal. His research interests include Public Health, Econometric Analysis, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, NASH Adverse Drug Reactions, Traffic Accidents, and National Innovation Systems. He published more than 300 journal articles and wrote 10 books. He also works as an editorial board member and reviewer for several international and national journals in the field of medicine and public health.

Saeed Sarkar

Prof. Sarkar earned his Ph.D. in Medical Physics from Surrey University, UK, in 1994 and is currently an academic member of Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) where he was the head of Medical Physics Department for seven years (1997- 2004). He has been the secretary general of Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) since 2008. This council is responsible for policy making, development, and promotion of Nanotechnology in Iran. He has also been the director of Institute for Advanced Medical Technologies (IAMT) since 2002 where over 150 researchers are active in R&D. He is also the founder and a board member at Iranian Association of Nanotechnology established in 2005 and a board member of Nanotechnology Committee in Ministry of Health and Medical Education since 2007. He has been a member of Board of Trustees at Kashan University of Medical Sciences and two other research Institutes since 2008. More than 50 M.Sc. and 30 Ph.D. students have been supervised by Professor Sarkar. He has published about 150 peer review journal publications and 3 books. He is the winner of more than 10 awards and has 15 USA and European patents. He is also a member of editorial board of four scientific Journals. He has established 8 knowledge-based companies, two of which are engaged in designing and construction of Nanotechnology lab instruments and the other three companies are producing medical equipment.

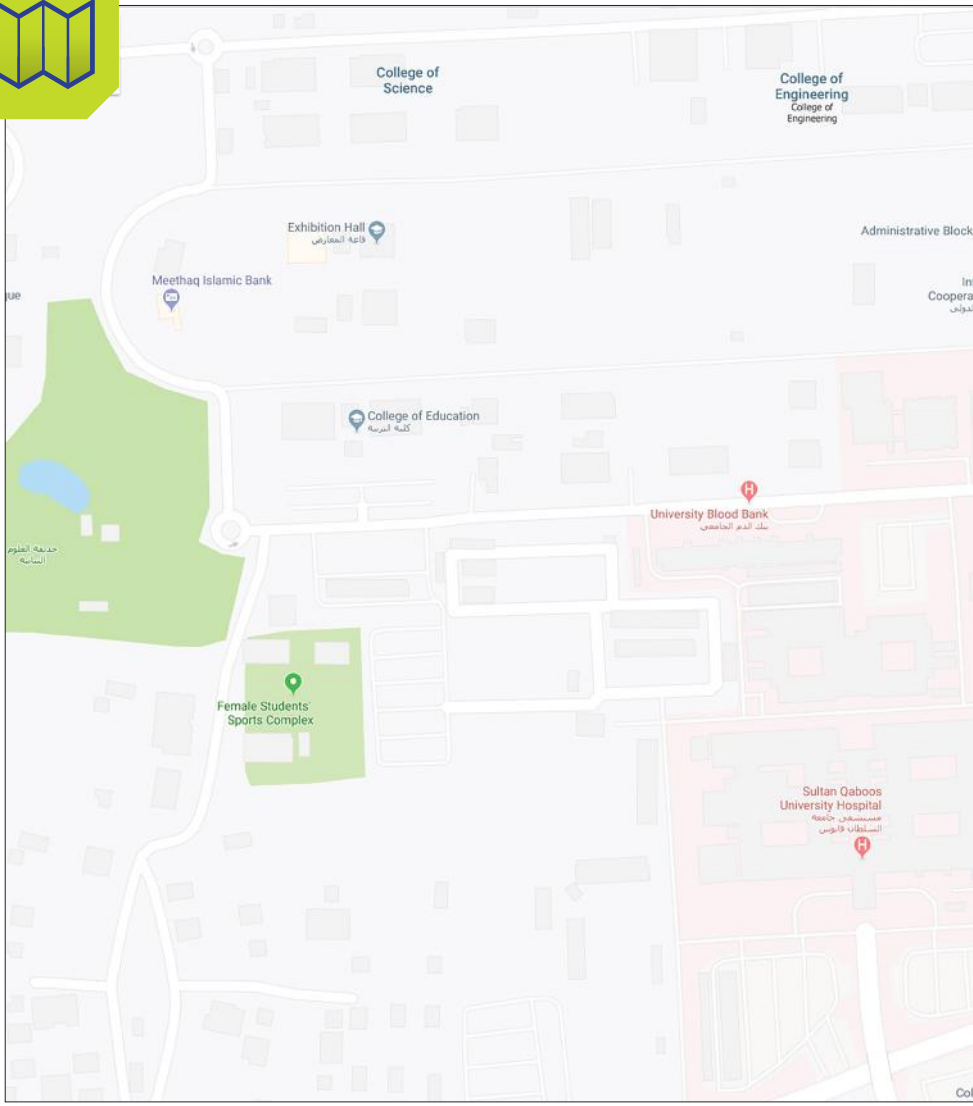
Mohammad Esmaeil Akbari

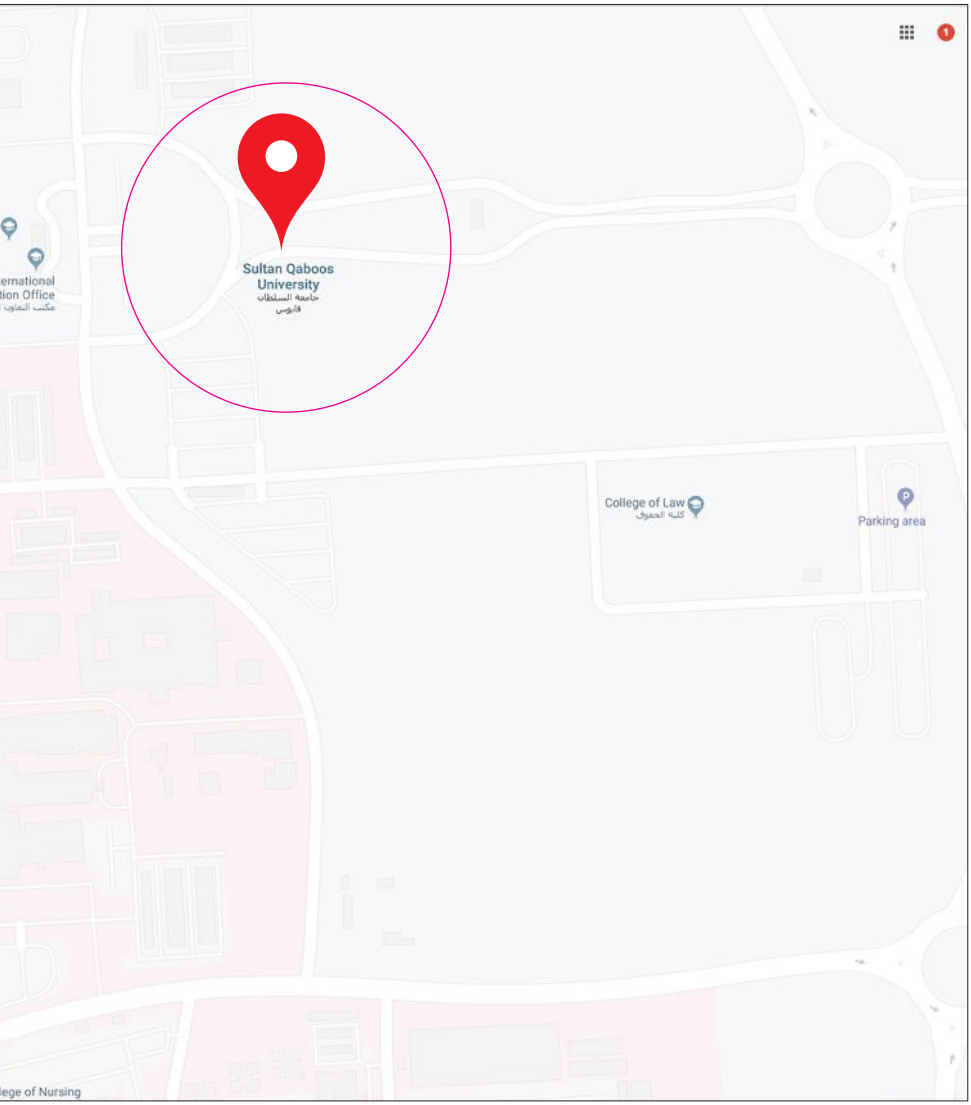
Prof. Mohammad Esmaeil Akbari is a Professor of Surgical Oncology at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBUMS), Tehran I.R. Iran. He has shouldered various responsibilities and assumed administrative positions which include: Head of Cancer Research Centre (CRC), SBUMS, Tehran, Member of Board EURAMA (Europa-Asian Breast Cancer Association) and Focal point of the association in Iran, Editor in Chief of International Journal of Cancer Management (IJCM), Head of Comprehensive Cancer Control Centre (CCCC), President of Iranian Association of Medical Education, Director of "Comprehensive Organization Advisory Community Health (COACH)" institute (NGOs), Iran (since its initiation, 2005), Founder and President of the Association of Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Member of the Islamic Association of Isfahan Medical University (since the Islamic Revolution), Member of Iranian and the American Association of Surgeons, President of the Association of World No Tobacco, Khordad Foundation's

scientific adviser, Member of the Supreme Council for medical education, Member of the Islamic Association of Isfahan before the revolution, Chancellor of Isfahan Medical Sciences (5 years), Advisor to the World Health Organization for medical care, Head of the Clinical Research Committee (two terms), Advisor to the Minister and responsible for Community Oriented Medical Education (2 years), Founding member of the Association of Youth and Religion Toyserkan (from 1344 AD to the revolution), President of the Isfahan Regional Health Organization (2years), President of Shariati Hospital (2 years),Vice President and Consultant of the Isfahan University of Medicine (4 years), Head of the COACH Institute, Managing Director of Esfehan Blood Transfusion (8 years), Professor of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Member of the Board of Trustees of Isfahan and Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Vice Minister of Health and Medical Education (8years), Member of Cancer Control Committee, Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOH&ME).

Required Addresses

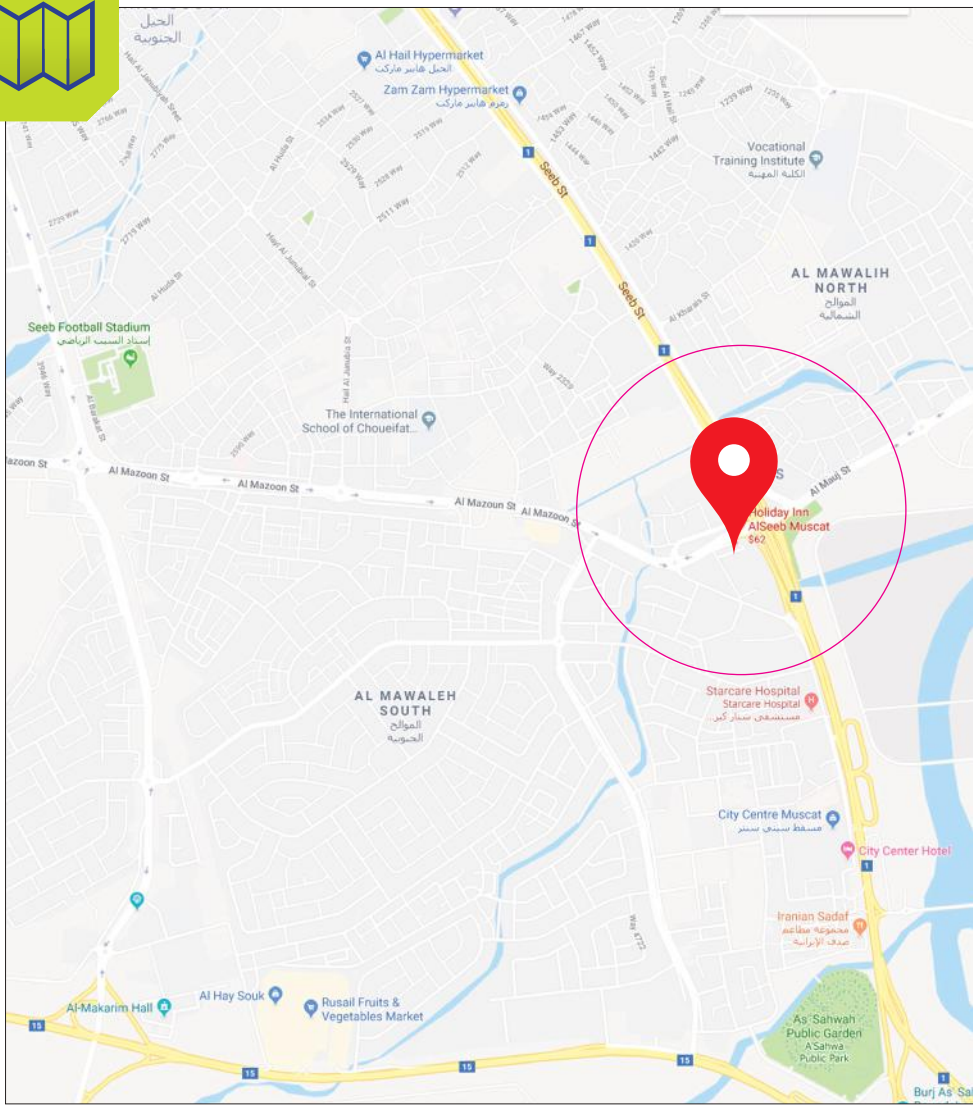
Sultan Qaboos University



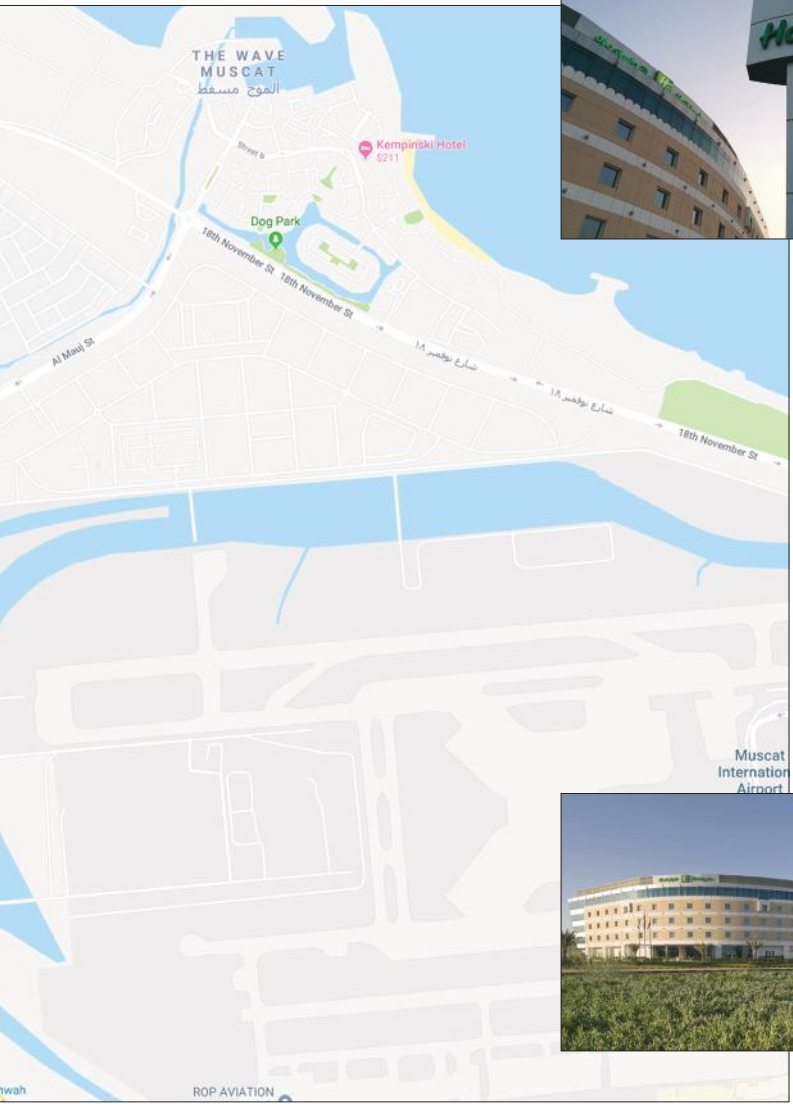

Sultan Qaboos
University
جامعة السلطان
قابوس
College of Law
كلية الحقوق
Parking area

Required Addresses

Holiday Inn AlSeeb Muscat




Holiday Inn


THE WAVE
MUSCAT
الموج مسقط
Kempinski Hotel
Dog Park
18th November St
18th November St
Al Mouj St
شارع نوفمبر ١٨
شارع نوفمبر ١٨
18th November St
Muscat
Internation
Airport
ROP AVIATION

1. The Innovation & Technology Transfer Centre:

Established recently in 2018, this Centre contributes to Oman's social and economic development by supporting young Omanis in learning about, and engaging in, every aspect of innovation and entrepreneurship, thereby stimulating activities and initiatives that lead to the creation of spin-offs and start-ups that contribute to the diversification and sustainability of Oman's economy. It does this in a national context where Oman continues to place a heavy emphasis on innovation as a way of promoting economic diversification, job growth, and global competitiveness. The Centre is also mandated by SQU's Strategic Plan 2016-2040, which underlines the importance of establishing an independent centre for innovation. As a result, the centre will not only build upon SQU's existing infrastructure and capabilities in innovation at SQU, but will also help fulfil national objectives in relation to strategic socio-economic development. The Innovation & Technology Transfer Centre has five sections which will be overseen by the centre's director. These sections are: Training, Mentoring and Outreach; Industry Linkages and Licencing; Incubation; Intellectual Property; and Innovation and Technology Transfer Studies. The director is also responsible for overseeing the Innovation Fund and the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Society. An Innovation Factory, under a manager who reports to the centre's director, is also attached to the centre.

2. Medical Research Centre:

The establishment of the Medical Research Centre at SQU was considered a vital step for producing high quality medical research of a broad and specialized nature conducted in well-equipped laboratories. The establishment of the Medical Research Centre encourages greater collaboration between stakeholders within Oman and across the country and the region, and also allows researchers to conduct high-quality research in major themes that are of strategic importance to the sultanate. As such, the Medical Research Centre will carry out advanced medical research, coordinate medical research facilities and expertise at SQU, and create a scholarly environment conducive to innovation and excellence in research while also promoting research collaboration.

3. Sustainable Energy Research Centre:

As the first research Centre in the sultanate dedicated to sustainable energy, the Centre covers research themes that include energy policy and strategy issues, renewable energy, integrated power systems, energy management and rational use, and their economic and social aspects. The Centre aims to unify the individual efforts of energy researchers from Sultan Qaboos University under one umbrella covering all areas of sustainable energy. The Centre also aims to provide energy consultancy for all sectors and to conduct research that supports the graduation of master's and doctorate students.

4. Nanotechnology Research Center:

The Center solidifies the presence of Sultan Qaboos University regionally and internationally in the fields of nanotechnology and serves as the primary house of expertise in nanotechnology in the sultanate. It provides research leadership and builds human capacity in the area of nanotechnology, and contributes to sustainable development at national, regional, and global levels.

5. Omani Studies Centre:

The vision of the Centre is to help maintain and promote the cultural heritage associated with Oman's unique cultural identity across all aspects of the humanities. As such, the Centre seeks to be an important source of social, cultural, and historical sciences that are related to Omani civilization. The Centre conducts scientific research and offers consulting services that help preserve and disseminate knowledge about Oman. It also collaborates with local and international institutions and encourages research studies relevant to the sultanate.

6. Humanities Research Centre:

The Centre seeks to promote various areas of research by assuming a leading role in the field of the humanities through the advancement of research work and the development of tools to ensure its ability to face the rapid global challenges that affect all areas of life. The Centre's work is especially important as SQU is often seen as a house of intellectual expertise that can help people deal with the increasingly complex demands placed on them in this era and meet governmental and non-governmental institutional requirements.

7. Oil and Gas Research Centre:

The Centre encourages and supports scientific research and strategic studies in areas related to oil and gas, and contributes to transferring, localizing, and developing unconventional and innovative technologies. The Centre also conducts and coordinates high quality research, training and consultation in areas that are vital for the effective development of the country, in addition to training Omani nationals in research related to oil and gas.

8. Earthquake Monitoring Centre:

The Centre offers services to the community through research studies related to earthquake monitoring. In doing so, it seeks to measure the potential threat of earthquakes in ways that can assist in discovering the best means of limiting their effect and/or potential damage. The Centre operates through a network of twenty stations distributed in various areas in the sultanate. It also monitors seismic waves coming from the seismic zones of all levels whether they are tangible or intangible.

9. Centre for Environmental Studies and Research:

The Centre plays an important role in organizing and coordinating studies and research related to the environment through scientific research and by raising awareness of environmental issues and topics related to the sultanate. The Centre also collaborates with various governmental associations and institutes with initiatives that contribute to the conservation of natural resources that can help achieve sustainable development. The Centre contributes to the formation of environmental policies and offers assistance to organizations and stakeholders that seek its input.

10. Water Research Centre:

The Centre offers its services to the community through the study of mechanisms to develop the water sector in Oman, in addition to coordinating research related to water in an effort to develop water resources and protect them from pollution and depletion. The Centre explores research priorities in areas of water, while also offering information to researchers and providing research services, consultancies and analysis through available university resources.

11. Earth Science Research Centre:

The Centre was established to contribute to and support the sultanate's economy through the development of the ideas and strategic technology necessary for pioneering strategy for environmental research in various areas of earth science and especially in oil, gas and mining. The Centre supervises a database of Oman's various geological aspects in which it stands as the primary source of geological data in the country and of investment opportunities in this area. In addition, the Centre also provides advice on the exploration and exploitation of mining and excavation.

12. Communication and Information Research Center:

The Center supports the development of scientific research and higher education through the establishment of partnerships between governmental institutions, SQU, and industry in areas of joint research programs related to information and communication technology. It contributes to the sultanate by promoting the process of transferring sustainable technology to the country. In addition, the Center implements research strategies which meet the information and communication technology requirements of Oman in both the short and long terms.

13. Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems:

This Centre is responsible for supervising the coordination of activities and research projects related to Remote Sensing, Aerial Photography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) within SQU. It also coordinates between SQU, relevant ministries, industry, and other institutions outside the sultanate. In addition, the Centre offers advice and technical support to national agencies and the community in general with the aim of promoting joint collaboration. The Centre also organises training courses, workshops, lectures, and conferences related to Remote Sensing and GIS at local and international levels.

14. Centre for Excellence in Marine Biotechnology:

The Centre is concerned with capacity building and the optimal use of Omani marine resources. It seeks to encourage sustainable development in Oman that will encourage future growth and prosperity in this area. This is especially the case because the sultanate has a long coastline and diverse marine resources that are currently unexplored and exploitable.

Note

Note