

# BIOTECH TIMES

KAIMRC Biotechnology Park Newsletter

February 2019

## The 9th Annual Forum for Medical Research

"Achieving The National Vision  
Through Medical Research"

KAIMRC Biotech Park is now  
Registered and a Member  
of the Saudi Business  
Network: Monshaat

# The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum for Medical Research

## “Achieving The National Vision Through Medical Research”



**We have spent the last few years building a strong and unparalleled foundation for biomedical and clinical research at King Abdullah International Medical Research Center (KAIMRC). We are now witnessing the dawn of new era where we are focusing on few strategic health priorities to respond to national challenges with significant direct impact on health and economy in alignment with the national vision 2030.**

With this year forum under the theme: ( Achieving the National Vision through Medical Research) The forum will have a set of sessions dedicated to strategic and timely topics of great national and global interest to all scientists, physicians, faculty, R&D executives, government representatives and research funding entities. Examples of topics that will be addressed during the forum include: 1) Impact of Medical R&D and Innovation on Economy, 2) Impact of Medical R&D and Innovation on Health Prosperity and Healthcare Development, 3) Funding for Medical R&D, Biopharma and Biotech enterprises and 4) Ensuring High Standards in science communication: Scientific writing and publishing. We are repositioning ourselves to ensure a greater success and to cope with the fast evolving and complex biomedical research field. At King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, we have brought basic, translational, and clinical research as well as a Biotechnology development and commercialization together under one roof. This is the model for success in biomedical research. Our disease area of interest will be narrow and focused, and our technological resources are broad and state of the art. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the well beings of Saudi citizens and to contribute to the global biomedical and health research agenda towards

building a stronger precision medicine yet following an innovative approach and adopting a bold model to achieve it. In the history of science, a few individual scientists working on their own made important discoveries. They were the breakaway riders. But the world is changing. Collaboration, cooperation, and shared insights are the keys to success. At KAIMRC, we are betting on our research and development and innovation integrated model to overtake fragmented research initiatives and win the race for the cure. As such, the Annual Forum for Medical Research Series, is an important vehicle through which we are reaching out to national stakeholders and international partners to build together a stronger medical R&D and innovation enterprise aligned with the National Vision 2030.

At the forum, strong emphasis was given to biotechnology and biopharma development in KSA highlighting some of the challenges and opportunities with the participation of a number of national stakeholders (Industrial Clusters, Research & Development Company, Saudi Vaccine & Biopharmaceuticals, Badir Biotechnology Incubator, Saudi Food and Drug Authority) and international partners (Roche, Astrazeneca, and Moderna Therapeutics)





“Overall , It was very well organized , Excellent relevant topics were selected , Panelists were appropriately chosen for each session . regarding my Session: Building Strong Medical R&D and biotechnology through partnership - Interaction was good , Audience was excited “ , Dr. Ali Al Qarni , Head, King Abdullah international Medical Research Center-Eastern Region.



“I am very grateful for the invite, and I think it was a great meeting .The session was very fruitful maybe missing the local private sector (VCs) including the SMEA , otherwise it highlighted many points and could serve as a nice white paper for the government and private sectors “ , Dr . Mazen Hassanain, Managing Director, Saudi Vaccine & Biopharmaceutical Development Research Products Development Company.



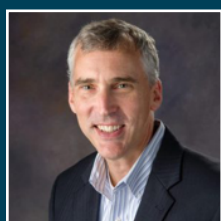
“It was a pleasure chairing a session with my colleague Dr. Ali Alqarni, addressing an important topic about the effects of partnerships on building strong biomedical research and development. I genuinely cannot express how much I enjoyed the sessions and discussions involved in the forums that I attended, which were informative and enlightening. It is also worth highlighting the sessions that stimulated great discussions and were of interest to many, including how R&D and innovation can impact health, as exemplified by the dramatic increase in clinical trials and its alignment with Saudi Vision 2030. The discussion revolved around high-standard publications and the parameters that determine their quality were interesting, provoking much discussion and critical thinking.” Dr. Adel Al Mutairi , Head Science & Technology Unit.



“Meeting format was great and conducive of conversation, question and interaction from the audience. The quality of the topics/questions and the discussions and presentations were on target and extremely well articulated both by the presenters and the audience . Recommendation would be to have it in a round table like discussion room or a smaller room where audience and panelist would be closer and able to interact directly.” , Dr. Paolo Martini, Chief Scientific Officer for Rare Diseases at Moderna Therapeutics.

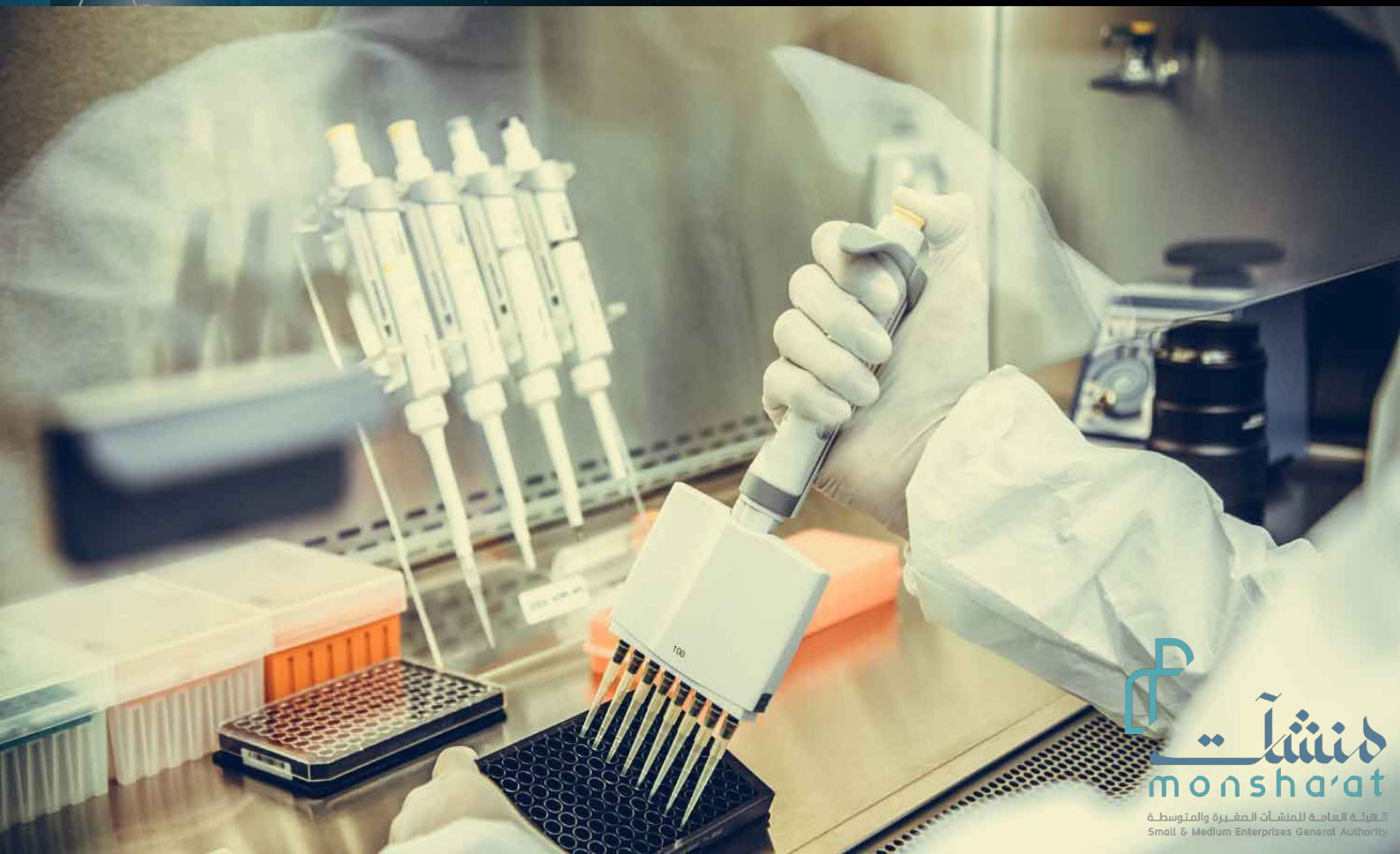


“Overall the forum was good. The sessions were well structured and the agenda covered contemporary topics facing KSA. The agenda was all encompassing for Biotech Research. The sessions gave the audience good insight into many aspects of Biotech’s with opportunity to ask their own questions. My sessions had a good composition of industry & local experts with experience and insights to share. The panel discussions were very informative, integrating global experience yet contextualizing for the local KSA market. “Dr. Fatima Cassim, Cluster Director (Site Management & Monitoring) Middle East Africa (MEA) at AstraZeneca.



“My first session was on funding. I made the effort to show that the difficulties experienced by KAIMRC investigators are very similar to the funding obstacles we have in the US. Other speakers in the session had similar remarks. We then attempted to point investigators to other funding resources. A main theme that was voiced by all speakers was the need to establish a relationship and trust between individuals, rather than simply filling out a proposal form. The second session was closely related to this last point: how to establish collaborations with third-parties. Again, the theme of establishing trust through face-to-face interactions was echoed by the speakers.” , Dr. Scott E. McNeil ,Director, Nanotechnology Characterization Lab (NCL).

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**Saudi Arabia's entrepreneurial landscape has been significantly growing during the past five years, as several government entities, got more involved in supporting the innovation and commercialization ecosystem in the country.**

With KAIMRC recent efforts, we are confidently moving into joining the international hub for precision medicine to tackle some of the major health challenges in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and contribute to global knowledge. The Biomedical, translational and clinical research at KAIMRC brings a great value not only to MNG-HA and King Abdulaziz medical city community alone but also to the entire Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in particular through the creation of knowledge

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Now, that KAIMRC Medical Biotechnology Park is licensed through Monsha'at, this will open the doors for our incubator to be connected with Monshaat's partners and network in the system of entrepreneurship in the Kingdom to collaborate and to exchange best practices and experiences. In addition, being part of Saudi incubators will give the opportunity to KAIMRC Biotech park to be presented and promoted in international industrial and business networks, forums and conferences regionally and globally.



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الكافتة

يتمثل في: إقامة عيادة العيادات من: تنظيم العيادة العامة للمستشفيات الصحية و المؤسسة العامة بقرى محلي، الوزراء رقم (201) و تاريخ 11 / 07 / 1407. وبناء على أنشطة تنظيم كافتات التغطية الصحية من العيادة

قد صدر هذا الترخيص منسجمة مع المذكرة العامة لمرافعة أنشطة كافتة أعمال، وفق شروط وأنظمة العامة ولإقامة مرافعة هذا النشاط.

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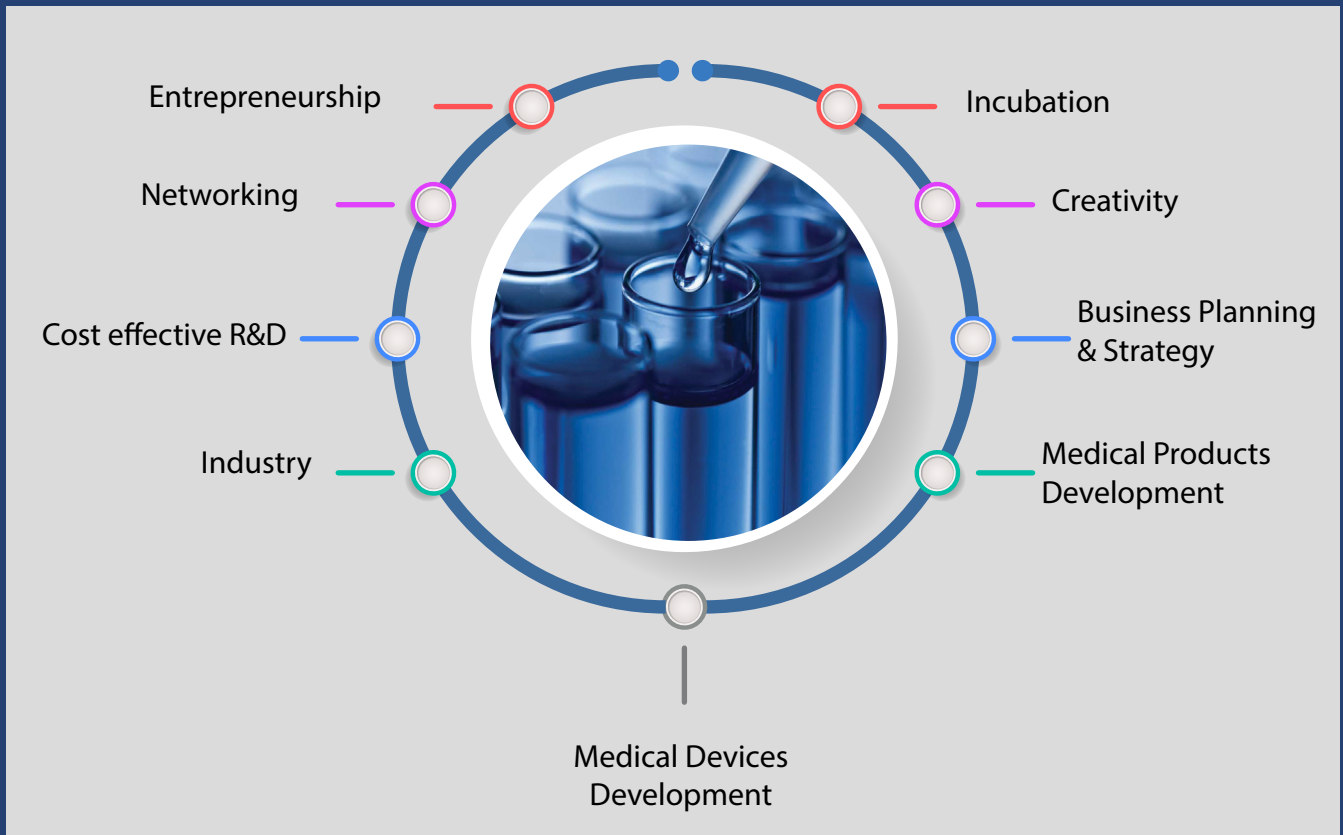
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# Our Talented Team is the Backbone of our R&D and Innovation System





# Medical Biotechnology Park



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