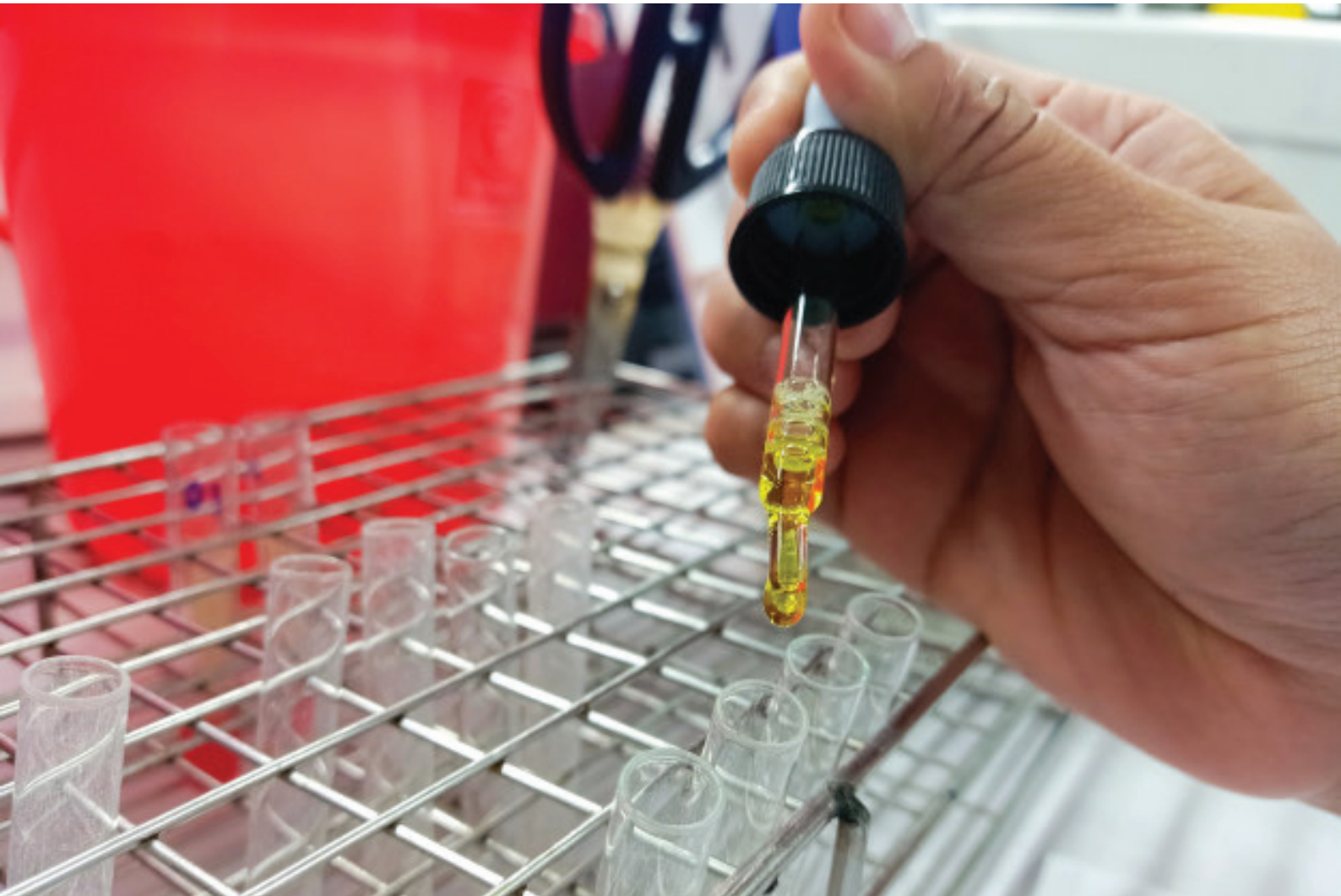


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# BIOTECH TIMES

KAIMRC Biotechnology Park Newsletter

January 2020



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## The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum for Medical Research

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Bandar bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Minister of National Guard, H.E. Chief Executive Officer of Ministry of National Guard - Health Affairs, President of King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Dr. Bandar Al Knawy launched the 10th Annual Forum for Medical Research on November 25, 2019 under the theme “Improving Healthcare through High Standard Clinical Trials”. The two-day forum covered several topics related to clinical trials and included over 100 research abstracts.



Executive Director of King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, DR. Ahmed Al Askar said: “Significant efforts have been made to enable the clinical trials to be a part of the main initiatives to achieve Vision 2030, with a cross-sectoral effort with KAIMRC, led by the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Ministry of Health and others, the adoption of the initiative resulted in the signing of several memorandums of understanding and agreements with several parties. Dr. Al Askar explained that clinical trials are an articulated stage for transferring research outputs from laboratories to benefit humans”.





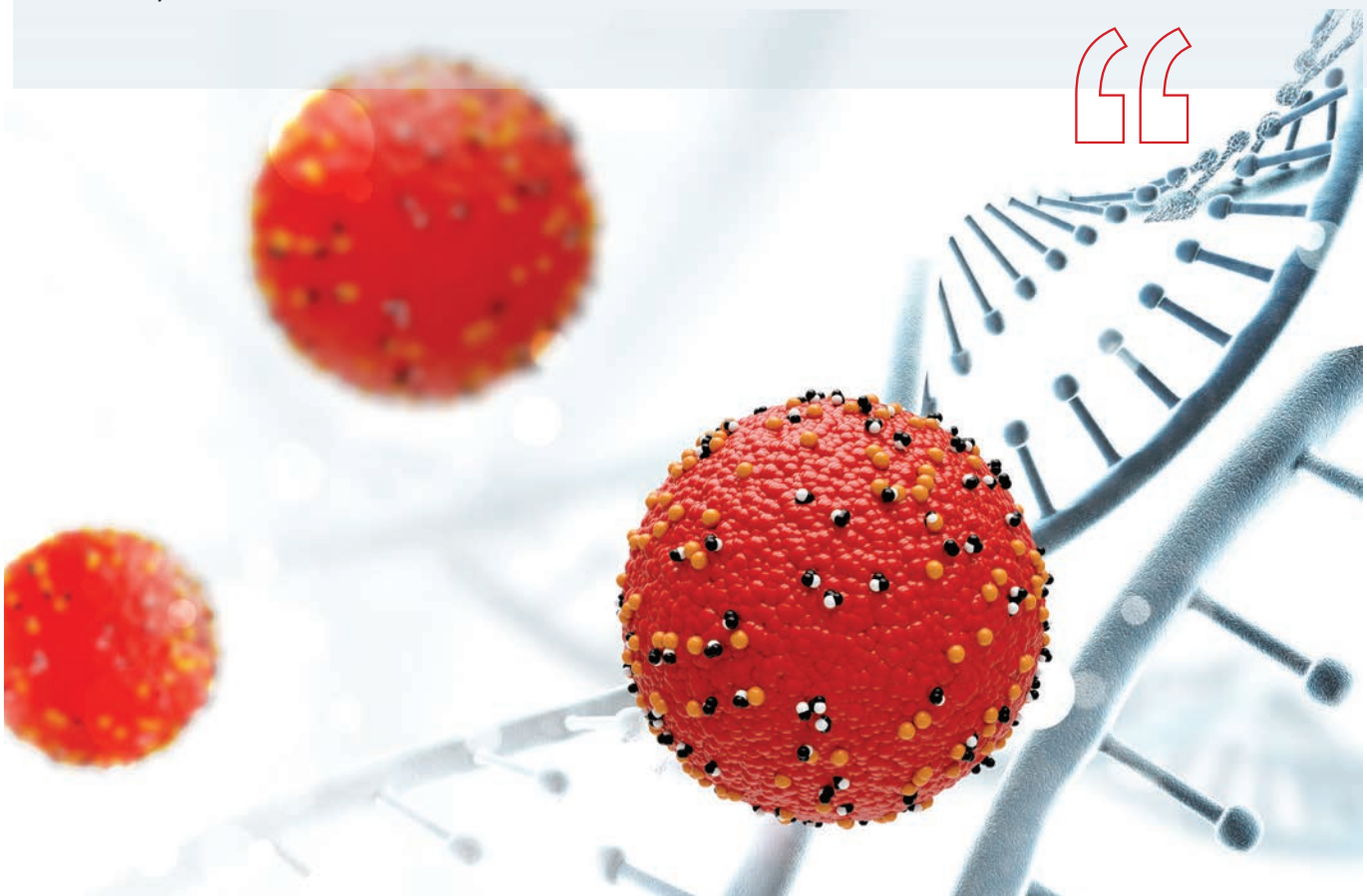
For his part, H.E. Dr. Bandar Al Knawy, Chief Executive Officer of Ministry of National Guard - Health Affairs, President of King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, expressed that the forum coincides with the launching of King Abdullah International Medical Research Center (KAIMRC) of the national Initiative for Clinical Trials and Laboratories Development (National Command Center).

His Excellency pointed out that with the support of the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program and in partnership with a number of local stakeholders such as the Saudi Health Council, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) and Industrial Clusters as well as others, this forum is held in alignment with the goals

of the national vision centered around the believe that health research is a pillar of development. Dr. Al Knawy also explained that within the Saudi-Korean Vision 2030, a cooperation agreement was signed representing a collaborative agreement with Seoul National University and the Korea National Enterprise for Clinical Trials (KoNECT) in Seoul on 26/06/2019.

At the end of the ceremony, memorandums of understanding were exchanged, namely: a memorandum of understanding between King Abdullah International Medical Research Center and the Saudi Health Council, aiming at collaborating in policy and human capacity building development for clinical trials in the Kingdom.

Another memorandum of understanding between King Abdullah International Medical Research Center and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority in the field of the study and analysis of pharmaceutical compounds, food and cosmetics, and the exchange of data and statistics, and to support joint research and studies and advisory services.







## Singing MoU with **TAQNIA**

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During the ceremony of The 10th Annual Forum for Medical Research, King Abdullah International Medical Research Center Has signed Memorandum of understanding with TAQNIA as the first step for strategic partnership to align with national transformation and Saudi National Vision 2030. This partnership will take KAIMRC research activities from the bench to the commercialization level. Taqnia is the major player to fill this ultimate goal based on its effective role in the Kingdom’s research commercialization ecosystem development, supporting and investing in local and international R&D.

رؤية  
**VISION 2030**  
المملكة العربية السعودية  
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

**Vision 2030 – Accelerating Saudi Arabia’s Emergence As a Leading Healthcare Innovator**



King Abdullah International Medical Research Center in partnership with SABIC hosted workshop on Healthcare Intellectual Property Awareness: Vision 2030 – Accelerating Saudi Arabia’s Emergence As a Leading Healthcare Innovator on 20-21 November 2019 in KAIMRC auditorium.

The workshop is dedicated to presenting and discussing the latest developments in the field of Healthcare Intellectual Property, licensing and Biotech and Biopharma Development locally and globally.

The workshop’s program includes international renowned experts such as Walter Klemp, CEO and Chairman, Molculin Biotech, Inc. and Executive Chairman and Founder, Soliton, Inc, and Gina N. Shishima: U.S. Head of Fulbright US LLP, Olivier Lemaire, Assistant General Counsel, GCC Cluster Legal Director, GlaxoSmithKline and others



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**KAIMRC**

is the First Saudi Center to Receive A  
Clinical Studies Certification

The King Abdullah International Center for Medical Research (KAIMRC) in the Ministry of the National Guard Health Affairs has been certified by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) for “Phase 1” clinical studies as the first Saudi center to receive this accreditation..

KAIMRC has set up a strong foundation for the conduct and management of Clinical Trials, which will allow local and international pharmaceutical companies to complete the development and testing of their medicines in the Kingdom and will pave the way for multiple options for Healthcare and drug development. Newly developed drugs and vaccines will be tested in the Kingdom for the first time in order to test their safety and efficacy on humans in the clinical trials unit equipped to deal safely with these new drugs, and through the Phase I clinical Trial for testing a new drug on human to determine the safety, after passing the pre-clinical phase on the animal where the appropriate safe dose is estimated during this stage.

This phase 1 clinical trial is strictly controlled and closely monitored to ensure the safety of participants..

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## Advancing the kingdom's clinical trials In line with an aim to increase the kingdom's participation in clinical trials held in the Middle East

**K**AIMRC has been leading an initiative to form the Saudi Network for Clinical Trials (SNCT), launched in April 2019. As a cornerstone of medical R&D, clinical trials also generate jobs, revenues and free cutting-edge treatments to patients in desperate need. By increasing clinical trials around the country, researchers can also develop medicine for the specific genome of the Saudi population. The SNCT aims to increase the quality and quantity of clinical trials conducted within Saudi Arabia through several approaches aiming at the development of the kingdom's legal and regulatory framework to streamline approval processes, the training and retention of talents, and attracting the pharmaceutical industry for partnerships within the kingdom. The SNCT prioritizes attracting and maintaining clinical trials expertise within the country through a training program and by bringing international experts to educate current and future Saudi clinical research personnel, says the project's lead, Shuruq Al Yousef. The center also wishes to coordinate with the regulatory agencies within Saudi Arabia to make the country an attractive destination for national and international

partners in the field. Abdelali Haoudi, KAIMRC's head of strategy and business development, explains that the national legal and regulatory framework is evolving to adapt to the speed of the clinical trial process and the new requirements as it is rather time-sensitive. It's envisaged that by laying the two foundations of skill development and regulatory amenability, Saudi Arabia can start to transform its clinical trials ecosystem. The team behind the initiative also hopes the SNCT can become a regional hub for drugs and therapies, and a coordinating center for clinical trials. KAIMRC is working to further clinical research by giving scientists more time, enabling clinicians to designate protected time to research. To achieve this, KAIMRC is pushing more funding support towards clinicians, to reduce the time sink of applying for grants. The KAIMRC team is drawing inspiration and guidance from the clinical research success story of South Korea. In less than 10 years South Korea has transformed its unexceptional clinical trials profile into that of a world leader, explains Haoudi. KoNECT (the Korea National Enterprise for Clinical Trials) is now a close partner to the KAIMRC initiative, aiming at replicating South Korea's exceptional growth in their own country. The architects of the Saudi-Korea partnership (Saudi-Korea National Vision 2030) intend for their work to also deepen ties between the two countries.

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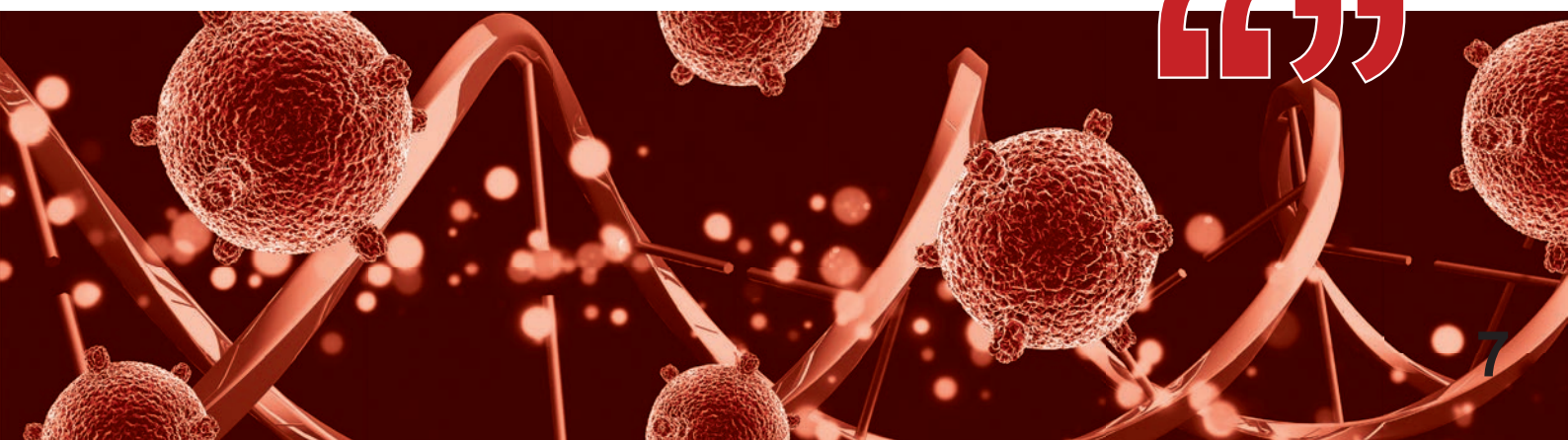




## Saudi Arabia's Efforts to Boost Pharmaceutical Production will Provide Opportunities For Multinational Drug makers

Saudi Arabia's efforts to boost **Pharmaceutical** Production will provide opportunities for multinational drug makers. In November 2019, King Abdullah International Medical Research Center signed a memorandum of understanding with South Korean **GL Rapha** Pharmaceutical company. The company plans to establish a local facility of R&D and a commercial factory in KSA.

The R&D center will contribute to the education and formation of high-level technicians and specialists in the field of bio-engineering and genetic-engineering. The main deliverable of this program is the education and training of technicians and specialists in the field of bio-industries. More importantly, this R&D Center will be the core facility for Bio-pharmaceuticals business.. KAIMRC and GL Rapha are planning to collaborate for the development of a commercial factory for various delivery systems in partnership with other entities in the country.





## Visit to AstraZeneca

**A**s part of strengthening the international R&D and innovation partnerships, a team from KAIMRC visited AstraZeneca, in their global headquarters at Cambridge campus, UK in December 2019 to explore opportunities for R&D and innovation partnerships in the areas of genomic medicine, clinical trials and commercialization. The team included Dr. Majed Al Fadhel, Deputy Executive Director and Chairman Medical Genomics at KAIMRC And Dr. Manal Alaamery, Chairman, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and head, Development Medicine at KAIMRC and Dr. Abdelali Haoudi, Head Strategy and Business Development and Managing Director, Medical Biotechnology Park at KAIMRC

