



# RCR Newsletter

2018  
Volume 2 Issue 1

## A Newsletter from the Fogarty Research Ethics Educational Program in Jordan

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### Advancement of RCR Leaders in the MENA

From the time of the launch of the "Research Ethics Program in Jordan" in 2015 till now; the program has been able to graduate 3 cohorts of fellows and leaders in the field of Research Ethics, for a total of 70 fellows. Starting Year two of the program, the program began to spread to the Middle East and North Africa (known as the MENA) region; as we accepted fellows from many different countries such as Yemen, Iraq, Morocco, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Mauritania, Lebanon, Libya and from the Gaza Strip.

These graduate fellows have managed to serve as members on IRB Committees in their country of residence, served as mentors for past and present fellows of our program, presented talks at conferences and they have also trained many graduate and undergraduate students in their institutes, by holding workshops on different aspects of research ethics, as well as assume administrative positions.

This year we have accepted our last batch of fellows, as we are hoping to graduate at least an additional 40 fellows bringing the total number of fellow graduates from the program to about 110, the targeted number of phase one of the program.



## Train the trainer-Workshops conducted by the program fellows

**As of this year the program has proudly trained a total of 564 trainees in Research Ethics & Responsible Conduct of Research.**

As part of their Summer Practicum Project requirements a number of our fellows held workshops on research ethics and responsible conduct of research; the workshop attendees came from many different backgrounds; they were either fellow faculty members or graduate/undergraduate students at their institutes.

- Workshop Year 1 of the program (12 Trainees): A one day Research Ethics Workshop: Issues in Research Misconduct; Authorship and Publication and Data Management. The attendees were faculty members from both Applied Medical Sciences and Nursing at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The workshop was conducted by Dr. Hanan Khalil, Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences, and Dr. Nihaya Al-Sheyab, Faculty of Nursing, Jordan University of Science and Technology
- Workshop Year 2 of the program (45 Trainees): This workshop was held over two days; the attendees were members of the school of Pharmacy (graduate and faculty members), Mansoura University in Egypt. The workshop aimed at establishing knowledge and raised awareness of the attendants towards the basic modules of RCR that every researcher should know. The subjects of research misconduct (fabrication, falsification and plagiarism), conflict of interest and whistleblowing, authorship, mentoring, the first day. While the subjects of research involving human subjects, using animal subjects in research and data management were discussed in the second day. The workshop was conducted by: our RCR fellow, Dr. Amal Sallam, Faculty of Pharmacy, Mansoura University, Mansoura, Egypt.
- Workshops Year 3 of the program (207 Total Trainees): Four of the program fellows held workshops that targeted different aspects of Research Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research:
  1. Dr. Alaa Abou-Alfetouh-Faculty of Pharmacy, Alexandria University, Egypt: She held a 2-day workshop on Awareness of RCR among researchers at the School of Pharmacy-Alexandria University- Egypt. Subjects addressed were Authorship, research misconduct, conflict of Interest, and informed consent. There was a total of 60 trainees on both days.
  2. Dr. Nidal Eshah- Faculty of Nursing – Zarqa University-Jordan: He held a one-day workshop on: Ethical responsibilities in scientific writing: authorship, mentoring and plagiarism. There was a total of 15 trainees.
  3. Dr. Fadwa Alhalaiqa – Faculty of Nursing-Philadelphia University-Jordan. She held a 2-day workshop at her university that addressed ethical issues in research such as informed consent, data protection, estimating risk, bias and confounding; research misconduct, whistleblowing, publication, authorship, and peer review. There was a total of 35 trainees.
  4. Dr. Fadia Mayyas- Faculty of Pharmacy –Jordan University of Science & Technology (JUST). She held a one-day Workshop: Awareness and Knowledge of Manuscript Structure



# RCR Newsletter

## Dissemination of the RCR knowledge – Four International Conferences on RCR are organized by the RCR Program in Jordan

Since the start of the program in 2015; four International conferences on RCR were organized. These conferences were:

1. The 1st International Conference on Ethics in Jordan: Ethics & Bioinformatics Conference in Jordan that was held on August 11th, 2016.
2. The 2nd International Conference on Ethics in Jordan: Clinical Trials. The conference was held from August 2nd -4th, 2017.
3. The 3rd International Conference on Ethics in Jordan: Publication and Authorship held on July 3rd, 2018.
4. The 1st International Conference on Research ethics in Morocco held on March 2018.

Dr Kenneth Goodman; founder and Director of the University of Miami Bioethics Program and his WHO Collaborating Center on Bioethics from the University of Miami, in collaboration with the Jordan RCR Program and the College of Pharmacy at JUST provided financial support to the three conferences that were held in Jordan. The conference that was held in Morocco received support from IBN ZOHR University.



Name of Fellow & position	Cohort/Graduation Year	Presentation Topic
<b>The 1st Ethics &amp; Bioinformatics Conference in Jordan</b>		
<b>Nihaya A. Al-Sheyab, PhD, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan</b>	<b>Cohort 1/2016</b>	<b>"The ethical dilemmas in regard to Electronic Health Records in Jordan"</b>
<b>Sukainah Al-Zyoud, Ph.D, Hashemite University</b>	<b>Cohort 2/2017</b>	<b>"Research Studies using Electronic Health Records in Jordan: Ethical Concerns"</b>
<b>Qosay A. Al-Balas, PhD, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan</b>	<b>Cohort 1/2016</b>	<b>"CRISPR in Muslim community, challenges in riding the wave"</b>
<b>Mahmoud Alomari, PhD, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan</b>	<b>Cohort 1/2016</b>	<b>"Ethics in exercise testing and Research"</b>
<b>Nafez Abu-Tarboush, PhD, Jordan University, Jordan</b>	<b>Cohort 1/2016</b>	<b>" Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Research Ethics among Professors of Health Sciences at the University of Jordan "</b>



## Dissemination of the RCR knowledge – Four International Conferences on RCR are organized by the RCR Program in Jordan

Name of Fellow & position	Cohort/Graduation Year	Presentation Topic
<b>The 2nd International Conference on Ethics in Jordan: Clinical Trials</b>		
Yazan Akkam, Yarmouk University, Jordan	Cohort 2/2017	"Nanotechnology in Jordan: ethical implications and potential health consequences."
Basima Almomani, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Cohort 2/2017	"Knowledge and views of Jordanian parents on ethical issues of medical research in their children."
Hana Abu Hassan, University of Jordan, Jordan, & Heyam Aldalky, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan.	Cohort 2/2017	"Mental health stigma."
Aceil Alkhateeb, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Cohort 2/2017	"Developing an updated Arabic version of human subjects' topic for Islamic communities."
Osama Alshogran, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Cohort 2/2017	"Knowledge, views, attitudes and practice towards international committee of medical journal editors (ICMJE) authorship criteria among faculty members of health sciences."
Noor Almurtada, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Cohort 2/2017	"Considerations and beliefs on donation of a tooth to science in Jordan."
Hanin Makhloof, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Cohort 2/2017	"The perspectives of Jordanians toward open consent form and reuse of biological material in scientific research."
Sukainah Alzyoud, Hashemite University, Jordan	Cohort 2/2017	"Smoking cessation behavioral counseling: A randomized control trial among Jordanian adolescents."
<b>The 3rd International Conference on Ethics in Jordan: Publication and Authorship</b>		
Osamah Alshogran, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Cohort 2/2017	"Understanding of International Committee of ICMJE Authorship Criteria Among Faculty Members of Health Sciences in Jordan."
Qosay AlBalas, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Cohort 1/2016	"A Historical Overview of the Islamic Authorship Heritage."
Saleem Bani Hani, Jordan University of Science and Technology.	Cohort 1/2016	"Authorship: an ongoing challenge in research ethics."
Mahmoud Alomari, Jordan University of Science and Technology.	Cohort 1/2016	"Assent and consent considerations in the Arab countries: the Jordanian case."
Fadia Mayyas, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Cohort 3/2018	"The usefulness of workshops to improve graduate student awareness and knowledge of manuscript writing process and research integrity."
Wisam Shafiq, Yemen University of Science and Technology, Yemen.	Cohort 2/2017	"Assessment and Comparison of Research Ethics Education Offerings of Master Pharmacy Programs in Jordan and Globally."



## Dr. Karem Alzoubi - RCR Program PI in Jordan received "Jordan Science Star" Award



We are proud of Dr. Karem Alzoubi (Jordan Site PI of the program) for receiving this distinguished award. On Tuesday Nov. 7th, 2017, his Majesty King Abdullah II patronized the inauguration of the World Science Forum 2017, which kicked off at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center on the Dead Sea shores. His Majesty honored several prominent Jordanian scientists who made remarkable achievements in various fields including medicine, pharmacology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, mechanical and industrial engineering, among others. Professor Karem Alzoubi was among those chosen for the award "Jordanian Stars of Science"; he was recognized in the field of Pharmacology and RCR.

## Dr. Abeer Rababa'h received Distinguished Arab Researcher Award



(Abeer Rababah-Program Fellow)

Dr. Abeer Rababa'h, a year 1 fellow and Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Jordan University of Science and Technology was honored the 2016/2017 Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Distinguished Arab Researcher Award. Dr. Abeer Rababa'h won the Distinguished Arab Researcher Award, issued by the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) for her scientific research contributions in the field of medical and health sciences.

## Ms. Enas Mokhemer received "Jordanian Young Achievers" Award



(Enas Mokhemer-Program Fellow)

Enas, one of the Year 2 fellows who graduated from the program in October of 2017; was honored as one of the " Jordanian Young Achievers " in the World Science Forum, held in November of 2017 in Jordan on the Dead Sea Shores. In an email to Dr. Al-Delaimy the RCR Program Director; Enas quoted the following: "The RCR fellowship has added significantly to my research knowledge and my own personality. I would like to take this chance to thank Dr. Wael Al-Delaimy for his supervision *and coordination*".



## Translation of Resources for Research Ethics Education into Arabic

In the past four years and as part of their requirements for a Summer Practicum Project many of the program fellows were able to translate material and papers into the Arabic language or develop a research ethics module in Arabic. This material can be used in the future as a reference for the Arabic-speaking audience who lack knowledge in English. Examples of the translated documents are: Translation from English to Arabic of the paper "The Fruits of Authorship" –Wesam Shafiq-Jordan.

- Translation of the review paper "What is Ethics in Research & Why is it Important?" by David B. Resnik, J.D., Ph.D. Bioethicist and NIEHS IRB Chair. - Abdel Wahab Ben Othman- Algeria.
- Developing an Arabic Module on Mentoring- Dr. Ahmed Al-Delaimy-Iraq.
- Develop web or print materials about research integrity that are linguistically and culturally appropriate to an Arab-speaking audience. "Subject: Research Involving Human Subjects: An Updated Arabic Version"- Dr. Aceil Alkhatib-Jordan
- Translation of review about ethics in genetic research from English to Arabic- Maram Quttina- Jordan.

### Graduate Fellow Research papers published

1. Dr. Mahmoud Alomari & Dr. Nihaya Al-sheyab two fellows from Year 1 of the program joined with Dr. Omar Khabour (The program Co-PI from Jordan) to publish their paper "Parental Perceptions About Informed Consent/Assent in Pediatric Research in Jordan". It was published in the *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*
2. Dr. Aceil Al-Khatib from Year 2 of the program published: "Is Biomedical Research Protected from Predatory Reviewers?" in The Science and Engineering Ethics Journal.
3. Dr. Aceil Al-Khatib from Year 2 of the program published jointly with Dr. Michael Kalichman: "Responsible Conduct of Human Subjects Research in Islamic Communities" in The Science and Engineering Ethics Journal
4. Dr. Osama Al-Shogran one of the RCR Program's Year 2 fellows published "Understanding of International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Authorship Criteria among Faculty Members of Pharmacy and other Health Sciences in Jordan" this was a joined publication with his mentor for his summer practicum project; Dr. Wael Al-Delaimy ( The program PI). It was published in the *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*
5. Dr. Adnan Alhindi, a Year 2 Fellow in cooperation with Dr. Nour AlSawalha; a year 3 Fellow both joined with Dr. Omar Khabour and Dr. Kareem Alzoubi to publish their paper " The attitude of blood donors towards the use of their samples and information in biomedical research"; It was published in the Journal of Blood Medicine.



## Program Fellow Graduates return as Mentors for the Program

One of the goals of the program was to graduate fellows who would be leaders in the field of Research Ethics; and one of the roles they would play is acting as mentors for future participants of the program. This goal was achieved in year 2 and year 3; as we had seven of our fellow graduates join the program after graduation as Mentors. Below is the list of the projects that they worked on:

Mentor	Mentor Current Position	Program Fellow Mentee	Subject of Choice
Nihaya Al-Sheyab	Program Fellow 2015 Graduate PhD, Assistant Professor- Faculty of Nursing- Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Mr. Mohammed Al-Azzani	“Critical Review of Literature of the available ethical theories that explain research ethics and patient rights.”
Basima Almomani	Program Fellow 2016 Graduate PhD, Assistant Professor- Faculty of Pharmacy- Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	Dr. Tamam El-Elimat	“Ethical Issues in Mentoring: Views of Graduate Students in Jordan.”
		Dr. Ruba Darweesh	“Ethics of research mentorship- from a mentor’s perspective.”
		Dr. Maha Al-Keilani	“Knowledge and attitude toward informed consent among researchers in Jordan.”
Alaa Aljabali	Program Fellow 2015 Graduate PhD, Assistant professor at the Department of Pharmacy/Yarmouk University	Dr. Abdulhabib Alqubaty	“Knowledge and awareness about research ethics among biomedical Yemeni researchers at Sana'a city.”
		Dr. Samer Swedan	“Knowledge of Research Ethics and Adequacy of Research Training Among Master’s and PhD Students in Jordan.”
Mazhr Al-zoubi	Program Fellow 2015 Graduate, PhD, Assistant Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at Yarmouk University.	Dr. Nadia Alkadmiri	“Responsible Conduct of Research Policy within IBN ZOHR University (UIZ), Morocco.”
Abeer Rababa'h	Program Fellow 2015 Graduate PhD, Assistant Dean/ Assistant Professor Faculty of Pharmacy Jordan University of Science and Technology	Dr. Mohamad Alsaggar	“Researchers views and attitudes on consent in cancer genetics research in Jordan.”
Aceil Al-Khatib	Program Fellow 2016 Graduate Assistant Professor / Faculty of Dentistry/ Jordan University of Science and Technology.	Mr. Kamal Al-Shami	“Evaluating the awareness, perception, attitude and perceived barriers of the public to participate in clinical research in Jordan.”
Adnan Alhindi	Program Fellow 2016 Graduate PhD, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Islamic University-Gaza, Palestine – Professor of Medical Parasitology.	Dr. Ata Ali	“A Workshop Responsible conduct of research in studies utilizing human and animal subjects.”



## Moroccan Association for Research & Ethics [MARE]

We are proud to announce that Dr. Nadia Alkadmiri; a year 3 Fellow Graduate from Morocco has founded the Moroccan Association for Research & Ethics located at the Polydisciplinary Faculty of Taroudant University IBN ZOHR, where Dr. Nadia is a member of the Faculty of Medicine there.

The objective of MARE is the development, the valorization of scientific research and the upgrade of the rules of research ethics through coursework. Dr. Nadia and her team will work in collaboration and support from our program directors in order to upgrade the rules of ethics at the national level.

As a first activity, MARE announced the "1st International Scientific Conference for Research and Ethics", which took place at the Polydisciplinary Faculty of Taroudant- University IBN ZOHR –Casablanca-Morocco on March 30th and 31st, 2018.

This year's theme was "Dementia at the Crossroads of Geriatric Pathology" and presents various lectures and corrective actions for the benefit of the participants. The aim is to bring together scientific expertise in the field of research for an update on the news of this topic.





## The Loss of a Rising Star: Remembering Dr. Abeer Qandil

by Dr. Wael Al-Delaimy

It was with great sadness and sorrow that our RCR Training Program in Jordan lost to cancer one of its rising stars Dr. Abeer Qandil. As the fellows worked with each other and with the mentors and directors, a family-like relationship and appreciation developed and losing Dr. Qandil was like losing a member of my extended family. She confided to me about her cancer when I was enquiring as her mentor why her practicum report, the last part of completing the fellowship, was not delivered by the deadline. When I learned she was in treatment for cancer I asked her to focus on her health and treatment and gave her a one-year extension to graduate with the fellows in the following year. She was emailing me from her bed in the hospital so concerned about how she will complete her practicum. The severe illness she was being treated for did not undermine her commitment to research ethics. She got a little better and was able to complete her practicum in the following months and delivered the full report and passed despite her illness and chemo-treatment. At the time of her graduation, she was too ill to come to the ceremony, and her son came to receive it on her behalf. Despite knowing her disease has become terminal and she had little time left in her life she was focused on graduating and receiving the certificate of graduation. She passed away on October 26th, 2017, just two weeks after the graduation ceremony. Writing about it brings tears to my eyes on how someone was knowing they are leaving this life and are ill yet so committed to graduation from this Fogarty International Center Research Ethics Program Fellowship. In my opinion, this is the ultimate ethical example of the values that responsible conduct of research stands for. She will always be remembered as a hero of our program and a role model for all of us to follow.

### Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research (IPPCR) 2017/2018; Course by NIH

Five of the Program Fellows were given the opportunity to enroll in the IPPCR course that was funded by NIH, they were able to complete the program successfully and received a certificate of graduation from NIH. They are Dr. Walid Alzyoud, Dr. Eman Zboon, Rana Aljaber, Farah Alhashimi and Wesam Shafiq.

### Program Fellow from Iraq participates in the First Medical Sciences Conference

Dr. Ahmed Al-Delaimy, a year 2 graduate from Iraq, had the chance to give a one-hour lecture in Arabic on research ethics in the First Medical Sciences Conference held in Fallujah, Iraq on May 5th- 6th, 2018. The lecture included discussions and involvement from the attendees including the Dean of Fallujah Medical College.

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