



SANS NEWSLETTER

Our Reader is our Leader

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Dear readers,

It gives us immense pleasure to bring the 3rd issue of Volume 2023 of the SANS Newsletter!

This issue begins with heartfelt messages to Professor Ammar upon his retirement. It is impossible for us to convey in words the depth of our gratitude for his contributions to the field. All our best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

In this issue, Professor Abdulhakim Jamjoom shares with us his valuable review of the contribution of Saudi Neurosurgeons to the International Neurosurgical Literature.

We also have an exclusive interview with an experienced neurosurgeon who shares his insights and experience in the field.

In addition, we have covered some news from our community to keep you in the loop.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your feedback and comments. We are always looking for ways to improve our content and make our newsletter even more valuable to you.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts!



RESPECTED NEUROSURGERY PROFESSOR SAYS GOODBYE AFTER 36 YEARS IN SAUDI ARABIA

FEATURE

Professor Ahmed Ammar, M.D., Retires After Distinguished 36-Year Career In Neurosurgery

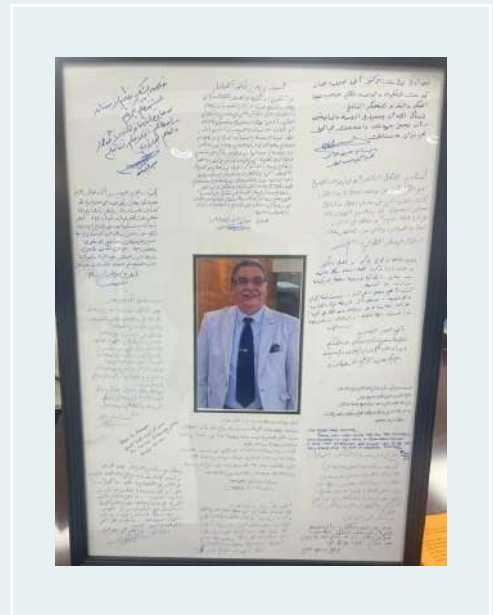
After more than three decades at the Department of Neurosurgery Professor Ahmed Ammar is saying goodbye after a long and distinguished career.

A beloved professor of neurosurgery is retiring this month, but his calendar will still be full for some time to come. Prof. Ahmed Ammar, who joined KFHU in 1987, has left an indelible mark on the university during his 36-year career as both an academic and a neurosurgeon. He has truly enjoyed his time at the university.

As for the IAU, Prof. Ammar expresses his gratitude for everything the University has done for him and for the relationships he has been able to build here.

This commitment to the training and mentoring aspiring neurosurgeons is just one hallmark of the magnificent legacy left behind by Ahmed Ammar upon his retirement on August 10. He has had a profound impact on the lives of so many people in this community. Prof Ammar has improved the lives of countless patients across Saudi Arabia, and he has also enhanced medical education and services.

Please join us in wishing him the absolute very best in his retirement.



#PROF. AHMED AMMAR

You will be greatly missed

Words of Gratitude

#1

It is said that the noblest profession is teaching, but even more so if the teacher is also a great neurosurgeon!

Prof Ahmed Ammar is the epitome of what the nobility of a teacher and a surgeon means. He has been a mentor to hundreds of neurosurgeons who are now practising not only in the Kingdom but all over the world. He is a great neurosurgeon whose hands and skills have become the channel of recovery and comfort for thousands of patients and families he has ever touched.

Prof Ammar fulfilled his journey to become a neurosurgeon in 1986 at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. Soon after, he joined King Fahd University Hospital (KFHU) in 1987, where he was one of its pioneer consultant in the Department of Neurosurgery. From 1993-1999, he was the chairman of the department. From September 1999 to 2002, he was the General Director and Chairman of Neurosurgery at El Salam Hospital in Egypt; from 2002 until his return to the Department of Neurosurgery at KFHU in 2012, he was a consultant neurosurgeon at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Throughout his

Prof. Ahmed Ammar is a noble man who will never retire!

career as a neurosurgeon, he has published numerous articles, books and commentaries. In addition to his membership in international, national and local neurosurgical societies, he is an active reviewer for international neuroscience journals. He has received patents on his inventions and his work has been recognised by several international societies worldwide.

Prof Ammar's love of learning and generous teaching style were deeply rooted and intertwined with his vision to produce promising neurosurgeons who will highly impact the teaching and service of neurosurgery throughout the world. His passion for the welfare and care of his patients is one of the legacies for which he will always be remembered.

Prof Ahmed Ammar is a perfect example of a professor and a neurosurgeon determined by a vision tempered with grace and humility.

On 10 August 2023, marked the farewell gathering honoring Prof Ammar. It is a day of sincere gratitude, admiration and sincere friendship.

By Prof. Abdulrahman Al Anazi

Professor and Consultant Neurosurgeon
Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery
Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University

#PROF. AHMED AMMAR

You will be greatly missed

Words of Gratitude

#2

A few days ago, was the retirement ceremony to one of the pillars of neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia, Professor Ahmed Ammar. He retired from Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

I have fond memories with professor Ammar; he used to call me "my beloved son" whenever we met. He is a great surgeon who dreamt of making the world a better place. Through research, education and innovation, Professor Ammar worked hard to fulfil his dream. I had the pleasure of traveling with him to a few conferences. I found him very passionate about his work and exploring new ideas. He had always considered new ideas as the most valuable treasure. Professor Ammar was received with utmost respect by senior and expert neurosurgeons around the world for his many local and international contributions to science and neurosurgery community at large. Among neurosurgeons in Saudi Arabia, Professor Ammar is considered a father, teacher, friend and great mentor. He is known for his exceptional support for

medical students and young doctors. They will miss him the most, in addition to his patients. He was one of the founders of the Saudi Association of Neurological Surgeons and has worked hard along the years to support it. His efforts have connected our local society to the international arena.

In the academic field, Professor Ammar was a co-founder of several academic training programs over the years. They have produced many of today's practising neurosurgeons in the Kingdom and Gulf countries.

I would like to Wish him good health, happiness and success as he moves forward! May the next chapter of his life be everything he wished it to be. Whatever comes next for him, may it bring him happiness and fulfilment.

We would like him to remember that Saudi Arabia remains his home, as he has always considered it. And that he has many children and younger brothers in Saudi Arabia who would be thrilled to reconnect with him.

By Prof. Amro Al-Habib MS, FRCSC, MPH
Professor and consultant, Neurosurgery
and Spine surgery
King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

#PROF. AHMED AMMAR

You will be greatly missed

Words of Gratitude

#3

Professor Ahmed Ammar is a visionary educator and a pillar of academia. With his unwavering dedication to teaching, he has nurtured countless minds instilling knowledge and passion that continues to shape the future of neurosurgery in

our region. His instrumental role in establishing and improving neurosurgery training in Saudi Arabia

demonstrates his commitment to the advancement of the field.

Indeed, Professor Ahmed Ammar's significant contributions and diligent work have greatly benefited our community. Our

society, the Saudi Association of Neurological Surgery (SANS), owes a debt of gratitude to Professor Ammar for his unwavering commitment to the growth and progress of our society.

Prof. Ammar's departure leaves a void, but his legacy of excellence, mentorship and progress will forever guide us

For over 35 years, Professor Ammar's remarkable journey was marked by tireless dedication and unyielding enthusiasm. His arrival in 1987

marked a turning point when he joined the forces of neurosurgery in our country and left an indelible mark on our medical landscape.

By Dr. Abdulrazag Ajlan

President of Saudi Association of Neurological Surgery

#PROF. AHMED AMMAR

You will be greatly missed

Words of Gratitude

#4

Professor Ahmed Ammar is an individual who is difficult to capture in words as he has filled numerous roles with great success. Professor Ammar spent some time with Professor Leksell, as well as many years with Professor Sugita, both of whom are historical pioneers and legends of neurosurgery. It is not surprising that Professor Ammar has created his own legacy in the field of the history of neurosurgery and takes his place alongside these pioneers. He is an ethical, professional and humane individual who played an essential role in the development of neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia, eventually laying the foundation for specialized training resulting in the prestigious Saudi Board of Neurological Surgery. He dedicated his life's work to educating

Prof. Ahmed Ammar is an exceptional role model for many of us, a teacher, a brother, a scientist and a philosopher - a truly talented human being

younger Saudi Arabians and endowed his wisdom to those who were already older. Even after he reached retirement age, Professor Ammar was asked to continue and offer his expertise. Without hesitation, he bravely sacrificed this critical time in his life to help - a testament to his character and selflessness.

Professor Ammar's numerous publications, books, inventions and, above all, the spirit he instilled in our souls - and which we pass on to the younger generation - have ensured his immortal legacy. We hope that he can live a happy, fruitful and healthy life surrounded by his family and that the future will reward him for his immense sacrifice for humanity. We wish him all the best, and may God bless him wherever he goes and whatever he does.

By Dr. Salah Alakkad, MBBS, FRCSC, FACS, FAANS & DABNS

Consultant & Head, Neurospinal Surgery,
Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

#PROF. AHMED AMMAR

You will be greatly missed

Words of Gratitude

#5

Dear Professor Ahmed Ammar, I write to you today with profound gratitude and the highest appreciation for your remarkable and indispensable contributions to the field of neurosurgery. Your unprecedented influence has extended beyond borders, resonating not only in Saudi Arabia, but also throughout the Gulf region, the MENA region and indeed the entire global community.

Professor Ammar, your prowess as a leader and luminary in the field of neurosurgery is unmatched. Your relentless dedication to the advancement of medical science and the refinement of surgical techniques has reshaped the landscape of healthcare not only in the Kingdom, but far beyond. Your influence has been like a beacon, illuminating the path for aspiring professionals and experienced practitioners alike.

Your legacy transcends mere medical achievements; it is a testament to your unwavering commitment to excellence. Your tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on neurosurgery. The successes of your colleagues and the lives of countless patients who have benefited from your expertise are a testament to your profound influence. What sets you apart, Professor Ammar, is not only your professional acumen, but also your humanity and humility. Despite your monumental achievements, you have remained approachable and empathetic, fostering a culture of collaboration and mentoring. Your genuine concern for patients, their families and your colleagues reflects the true essence of a healer. In addition, your contributions also extend into the realm of literature. As the author of several landmark books, most notably your treatise on hydrocephalus, you have not only expanded

the frontiers of knowledge, but also served as an invaluable resource to generations of neurosurgeons. Your opus on neurosurgical ethics stands as a beacon of guidance, navigating the intricate ethical considerations of our evolving field.

Moreover, your influence extends to the realm of neurosurgical ethics. Your unwavering commitment to ethical standards and patient well-being has reverberated across the globe. Your advocacy for patient-centred care, transparency and unwavering integrity has set a precedent that resonates not only in your immediate sphere but also in the wider medical community. As you transition from your current role, your departure is not marked by finality but a lasting legacy that will be cherished in the annals of medical history. Your name, Professor Ammar, will forever be synonymous with the pinnacle of neurosurgical innovation and mastery.

While you may step away from the frontline, your influence remains ever-present. Your insights, teachings and dedication will continue to shape the future of neurosurgery. Your wisdom will echo in lecture halls, research labs and operating rooms around the globe.

In closing, Professor Ammar, it is with the utmost respect and heartfelt admiration that I extend my gratitude for your remarkable contributions. Your impact on neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf region, the MENA region and indeed the entire medical community worldwide is immeasurable. **Your legacy is not just a footnote; it is an opus of medical achievement that will inspire generations to come.**

With profound appreciation and highest regards, your humble student and loving brother

By Dr. Abdulrahman Sabbagh
King Abdulaziz University | KAU
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

#PROF. AHMED AMMAR

You will be greatly missed

Words of Gratitude

#6

It has been my great honour to work with distinguished neurosurgeons and researchers who have made significant contributions to the field on an international level. Through this experience, I have gained invaluable insights that have enriched my professional journey. I have learnt not only the intricacies of neurosurgery, but also the essence of compassion and relationships with patients, and this has been truly transformative. Your guidance has shown me how to introspect, continuously improve and hone my skills. The ability to conceptualize ideas and conduct comprehensive research from fundamental questions has been a remarkable lesson. As a

Prof. Ammar 's support for residents and colleagues is a testament to his exceptional character

role model for students and residents, you instilled the values of consistency and relentless effort, even throughout one's career. Your mentorship has empowered me to explore my hidden skills and leverage them effectively. Your unwavering support for residents and colleagues is a testament to your exceptional character. Whenever you are asked for advice, your wisdom is the first thought, and your advice always proves invaluable. Prof. Ammar, your unique presence leaves an irreplaceable void that no one else can fill

By Mr. Faisal Rashed Almatrafi

Neurosurgery demonstrator at Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University
Dammam, Saudi Arabia

NEUROSURGERY IN SAUDI ARABIA

By Professor Abdulhakim B. Jamjoom
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



Contribution of Saudi Neurosurgeons to the International Neurosurgical Literature: A Bibliometric Review of Trends Over the Last Three Decades

Academic productivity is the hallmark of a successful career in any medical field. Saudi Arabia's productivity in clinical neuroscience has increased in recent years.

We currently rank 38-40 in the world in terms of total number

of documents and citations.

We rank further behind in terms of number of citations per document, as many of us continue to publish in journals with low impact factors (IF). The objectives of this study was to evaluate the changes and trends of Saudi

publications in international neurosurgical journals over the last three decades (1991-2020) and to determine whether these changes have affected the citation counts of articles.

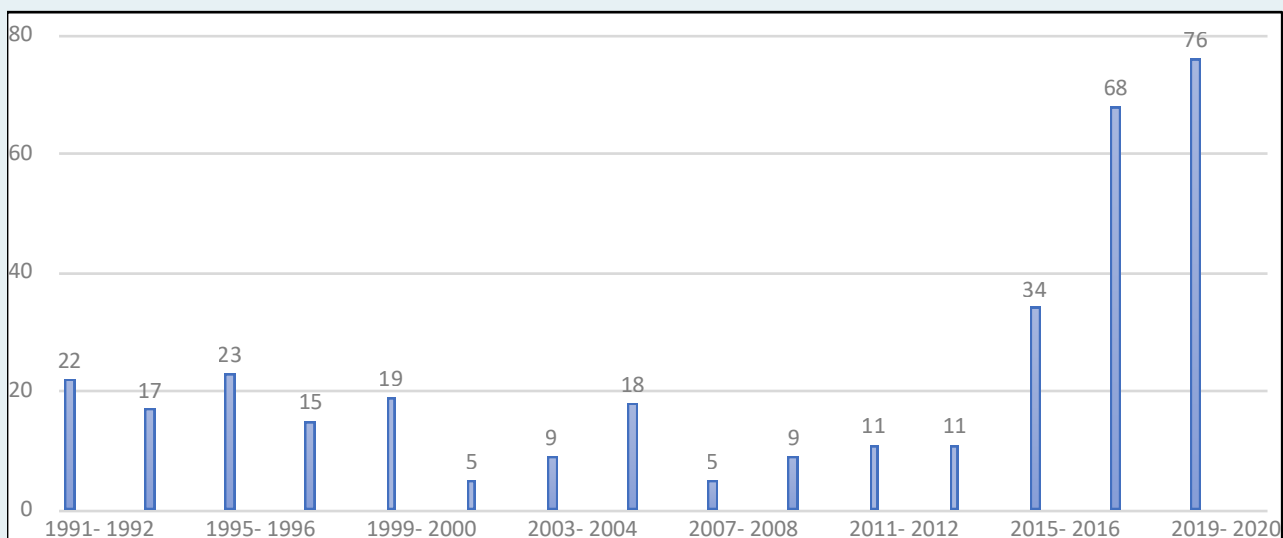
*To identify the Saudi neurosurgical articles, PubMed was searched:
[affiliation] Saudi Arabia OR Kingdom of Saudi Arabia AND
[affiliation] Neurosurgery OR Neurological Surgery AND
[Journal] each of the 33 international neurosurgical journals by name*

Contribution of Saudi Neurosurgeons to the International Neurosurgical Literature

The inclusion criteria were all publications that had at least one author affiliated with a neurosurgical centre in Saudi Arabia, regardless of the neurosurgeon's nationality or rank in authorship. Data on 15 bibliometric parameters were collected for each article. These included factors related to the study, journal, authors, centres and countries. Changes in publication trends were assessed by comparing data for articles published in the last decade (2011-2020) with data from the previous two decades (1991-2010) using mean differences and chi-square tests.

The impact of these changes on citation rates was assessed by correlating the annual citation rates with the data for the different bibliometric parameters.

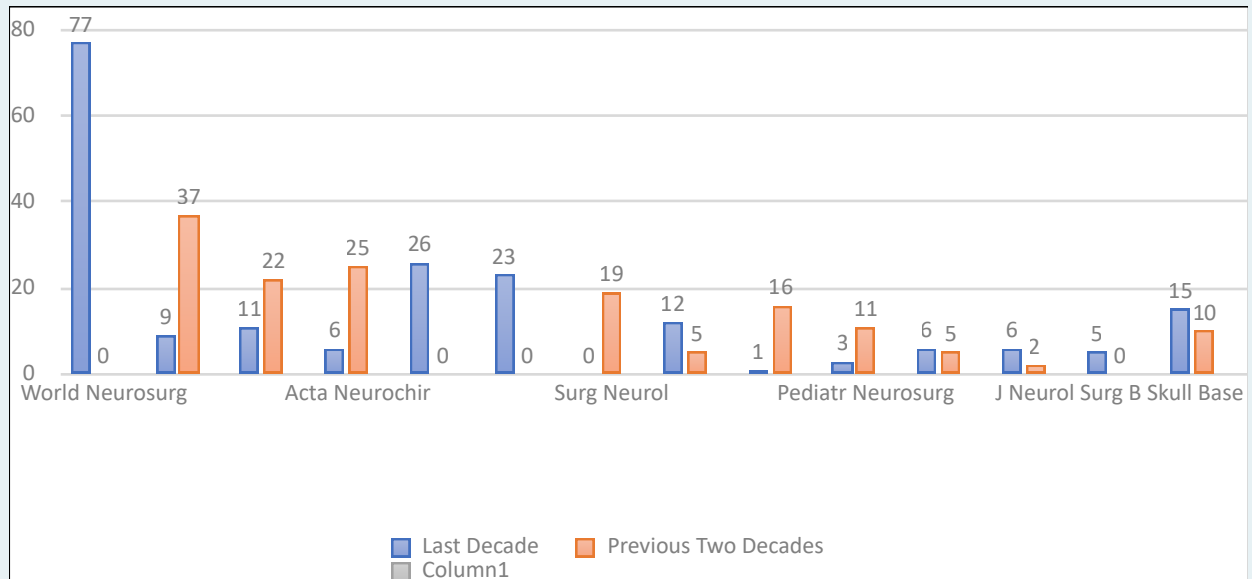
The total number of Saudi neurosurgical publications selected for the review was 352. Fifty-seven percent were published between 2011 and 2020, while 43% were published between 1991 and 2010. The median number of articles per year over the three decades was 8. The annual publication rate fluctuated between 1991 and 2014, but steadily increased since 2015.



The annual publication rate was significantly higher in the last decade than in the previous two decades [20 vs. 7.6]. Thirty years is a long period of time, and in that time factors may have changed that could affect productivity, such as: the number of neurosurgeons, their individual productivity, the number of top tier universities in the country, the percentage of GDP the country spends

on research and development. We also observed a temporal change in the most frequently published journals. Between 1991 and 2010, the two journals with the highest number of publications were the British Journal of Neurosurgery and Acta Neurochirurgica. However, in 2011-2020, the two most popular journals were World Neurosurgery and Surgical Neurology International.

Contribution of Saudi Neurosurgeons to the International Neurosurgical Literature

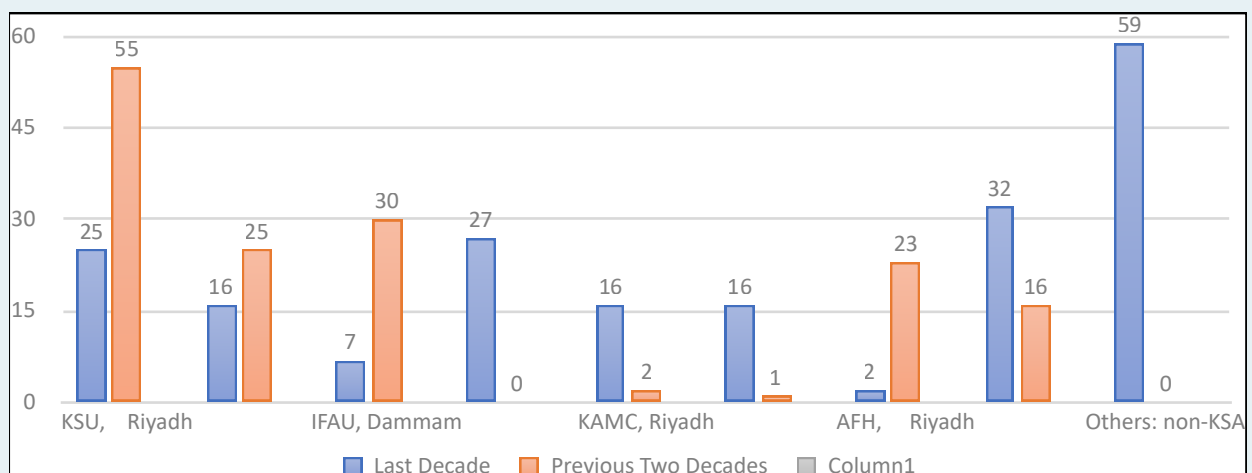


The mean number of publications of the journal IF in the last decade and in the two previous decades was comparable (1.96 vs. 2.04). However, publications in the last decade had a significantly higher mean number of authors (6.4 vs. 3.3), number of centres (3.4 vs. 1.1) and number of countries (1.9 vs. 1.1) compared to the previous two decades.

In addition, Saudi first authorship and percentage of Saudi authorship were

significantly lower in 2011-2020 than in 1991-2010 (71% vs. 100% and 61% vs. 93%, respectively). The centre of first authorship has also changed over time.

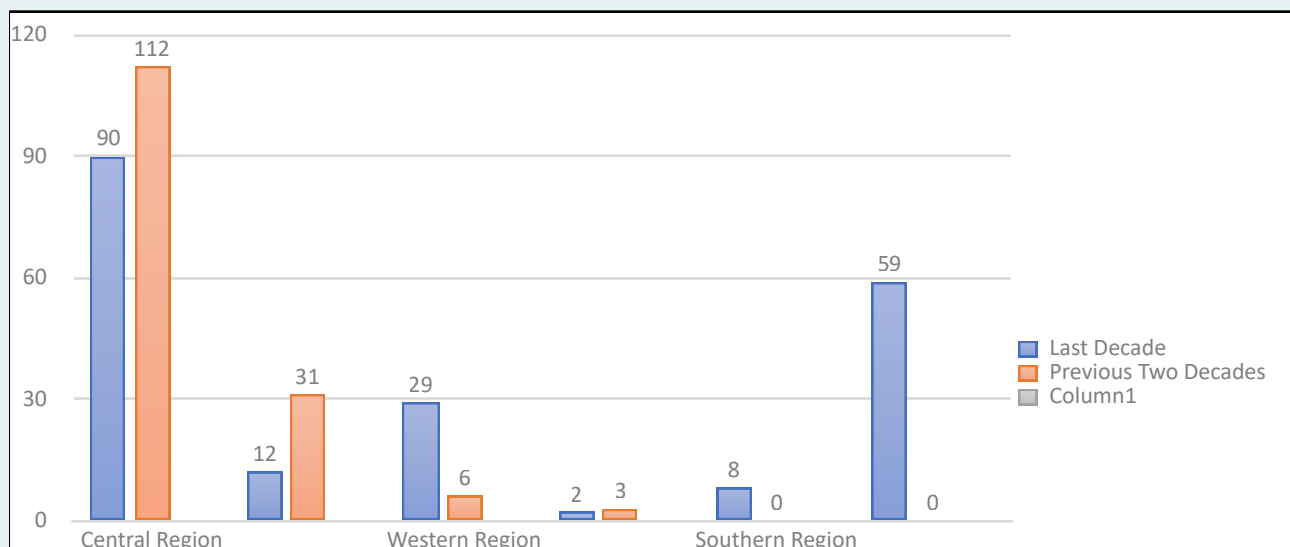
In the previous two decades, King Saud University (KSU) accounted for 36.5% of publications; its share dropped to 12.5% in the last decade, while King Fahad Medical City (KFMC) contributions accounted for 13.5% of publications.



Contribution of Saudi Neurosurgeons to the International Neurosurgical Literature

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The review showed that the mean sample size of studies in the last decade was significantly higher than in the previous two decades [74 vs. 22.5]. The types of studies have also changed significantly. There was a decrease in case reports (41% vs 59.2%) and an increase in review articles (15.5% vs 4.6%) in the last decade compared to the previous two decades.

We found that articles published in the last decade had a significantly lower mean citation count compared to the previous two decades (14 vs. 29), which is understandable as older papers have more exposure over time. On the other hand, the mean annual citation rate was

significantly higher in the last decade than in the previous two decades (3 vs. 1.4).

The correlation analysis showed that for the publications of the last decade and the two previous decades, there was a positive correlation between the annual citation rate and the duration of the publication, the sample size and the study type. However, only for the publications of the last decade was the annual citation rate significantly influenced by the journal IF, the number of authors, the number of centres, the number of countries and the percentage of Saudi authors.

Contribution of Saudi Neurosurgeons to the International Neurosurgical Literature

LIMITATIONS

This is a list of limitations of the study. The most important is the accuracy of the search. Some articles might be missing. The focus on the first author might underestimate the contribution of the co-authors. The impact of changing the number of neurosurgeons was not examined.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the contribution of Saudi neurosurgeons to international neurosurgical journals has increased significantly over the last decade. There has been a wider participation by neurosurgeons from the different centres and regions. Publications were increasingly multi-author, multi-centre and multi-national.

The changes in trends correlated positively with the annual citation rates of the articles. This could be considered a reason for optimism. It is hoped that the increase in multinational publications is not a temporary phenomenon induced by active Saudi residents and fellows who have been trained or educated overseas and have co-authored publications where the work was carried out entirely abroad and the only connection to Saudi Arabia is their affiliation. Such an arrangement, while still creditable but does not reflect the true productivity of neurosurgery in Saudi Arabia and may prove difficult in the long run. Ideally, we would like to see an increasing number of multi-centre, multinational papers that have high Saudi first and senior authorship.

REFERENCES

Jamjoom A B, Gahtani A Y, Jamjoom O M, et al. (February 19, 2023) Contribution of Saudi Neurosurgeons to the International Neurosurgical Literature: a Bibliometric Analysis of Trends Over the Last Three Decades . *Cureus* 15(2): e35164. DOI 10.7759/cureus.35164

THE EXPERT'S VOICE

An Interview with a Neurosurgeon



We are appreciative that Dr. Khalid Demyati was able to take time out of his busy schedule to answer some questions related to neurosurgery and the profession in general. It is our pleasure to hear his perspectives on neurosurgery.

Here's the interview:

SANS Newsletter (SN): What are you most proud of personally?

Khalid Demyati (KD): Taking good care of my patient

(SN): Describe yourself using three words.

(KD): Precise, passionate and skilled in my specialty

(SN): What are you passionate about?

(KD): I am passionate about the challenge of performing complex surgical procedures on the delicate structures of the brain and spine, and take great pride in their ability to help patients achieve better health outcomes.

(SN): How do you handle stressful situations?

(KD): Through preparation, focus and communication.

(SN): What are you known for?

(KD): Compassionate: I try to understand that my patients often face very serious and potentially life-changing conditions. I try to help patients and their families understand their diagnosis and treatment options and provide emotional support throughout the treatment process.

(SN): Most overused phrase?

(KD): لا إله إلا الله، محمد رسول الله

(SN): What was the best advice anyone ever gave you?

(KD): Treating patients in neurosurgery is a challenge "Treat the patient, not the disease"

(SN): If you were not a neurosurgeon, what career would you choose?

(KD): If I was not a neurosurgeon, I would have to choose a neurosurgeon

(SN): How do you spend your spare time?

(KD): I spend time with my family.

(SN): What is your favourite movie?

(KD): I do not watch movies

(SN): When/how did you know neurosurgery was the right path for you?

(KD): When I was an intern, I worked with a famous neurosurgeon and I found that this specialty was challenging. So I decided to specialise in neurosurgery

(SN): We are wondering about what is your genetic background. Do you have doctors in your family? How do your children look at you as a dad and neurosurgeon?

(KD): Yes, they are proud of me and one of them became a dentist.

An Interview with a Neurosurgeon

(SN): Which neurosurgeon (living or deceased) has most influenced your neurosurgical career?

(KD): Dr. V. Schorn (American neurosurgeon)

(SN): Can you please share some of your experiences in the early days of your practice?

(KD): There was an operation to remove a meningioma in a patient who suffered from aphasia and immediately after the operation she said Alhamdulillah. I am proud of this result

- My colleagues and I have established a neurosurgery service in several hospitals in peripheral cities in the Kingdom

(SN): As a successful neurosurgeon, how did you strike a balance among these duties?

(KD): Neurosurgery is a specialty that controls the personal life of a neurosurgeon

(SN): Could you describe your journey in Residency? Any lessons learned.

(KD): I started my career as a neurosurgeon in the military hospital of Alhada in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I then went to Germany to become a full certified neurosurgeon (FACHRZT certificate in neurosurgery) and then returned to Saudi Arabia to practise

(SN): What was your first experience actually working on the brain surgically, and do you remember it, and what did you feel about it?

(KD): Craniotomy for traumatic subdural hematoma and the patient was doing very well after surgery. I felt highly confident

(SN): What was the majority of your surgical practice?

(KD): Brain surgeries

(SN): Do you have a specific case that sticks with you?

(KD): There are so many that one could list them

(SN): How did you feel about taking responsibility for choices that you know will profoundly affect your patient's life?

(KD): With God's help. All the difficult issues will be sorted out

(SN): Could you talk about a time you took on a leadership role?

(KD): At present I am a medical director in a private hospital

(SN): What future do you envision in neurosurgery?

(KD): Working with robots and perform neurosurgery on awake patients

(SN): What's important in neurosurgical training?

(KD): Patience, patience, patience

(SN): What advice would you give to students who aspire to be in neurosurgery?

(KD): The field of neurosurgery is unique, challenging, valuable and will take you away from some of your personal commitments. Take it as a whole or leave it

(SN): Thank you for talking to us, and we are very proud of your achievements. Is there anything you can tell us that might surprise people reading the article?

(KD): Thank you

An Interview with a Neurosurgeon**Dr. Khalid Demyati**

Dr Khalid Demyati is a highly skilled and experienced neurosurgeon who obtained his neurosurgery degree (Fachartz) from Gottingen, Germany. In his over 25 years of practise, he has worked in both civilian and military medical sectors. His expertise has been invaluable to several hospitals in Saudi Arabia. He is currently working in the private sector in the Makkah region. His commitment to improving the lives of patients through his surgical skills and medical knowledge is commendable

CLINICAL CHALLENGE

#1

By Dr. Ghaida M. Fatani
R3 Neurosurgery Resident

Supervised by Dr. Abdulrahman Jafar Sabbagh
King Abdulaziz University | KAU
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

A 7-year-old girl, presented with a 2-month history of progressive abdominal distention, headaches, and decreased oral intake

Born as a preterm with a history of meningitis, which led to post-meningitic hydrocephalus that required VPS placement.

What's next?

Three years of follow-up without undergoing shunt revisions or facing any complications.

On exam: abdomen was distended with prominent veins. Positive fluid thrill
Neuormal neurological exam

1. What is the most likley diagnosis ?

2. What are the differential diagnoses ?

3. Upon the shown abdominal x-ray, what other investigations you would

4. Do you know any pathophysiology explain this ?

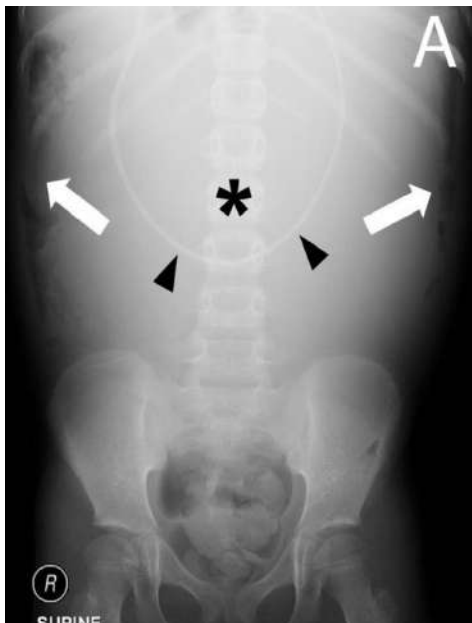
5. Describe the Ct findings.

6. When would favour the non-surgical treatment?

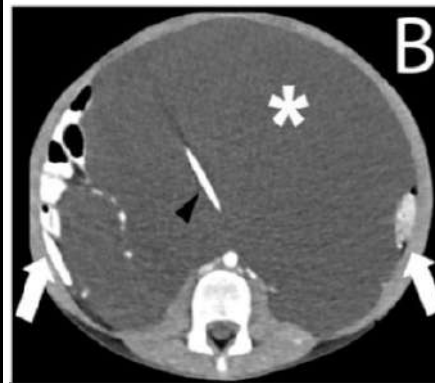
7. What is your final plan for this patient based on the clinical picture ?

#CLINICAL CHALLENGE

#2



A) Anterior radiograph showing large mid-abdominal opacity (asterisk) displacing the air-filled bowel laterally (arrows). Part of the shunt is in the mid abdomen (arrowhead).



Laboratory	Results	Normal range
White blood counts	8.66 K U/L	4.5-11.5 K U/L
Aspartate transaminase	17 U/L	15-37 U/L
Alanine aminotransferase	16 U/L	12-78 U/L
Alkaline phosphatase	160 U/L	54-128 U/L
Bilirubin - total	4.0 g/L	0-17 g/L
Albumin	30 g/L	40.2-47.6 g/L
Cerebrospinal fluid protein	15.06 g/L (high)	0.2-0.4 g/L
Cerebrospinal fluid glucose	4.6 mmol/L (high)	2.3-4.1 mmol/L
Cerebrospinal fluid bacterial & fungal culture	Negative	
C-reactive protein	11.5 mg/L (High)	0-3 mg/L

CLINICAL CHALLENGE

#3

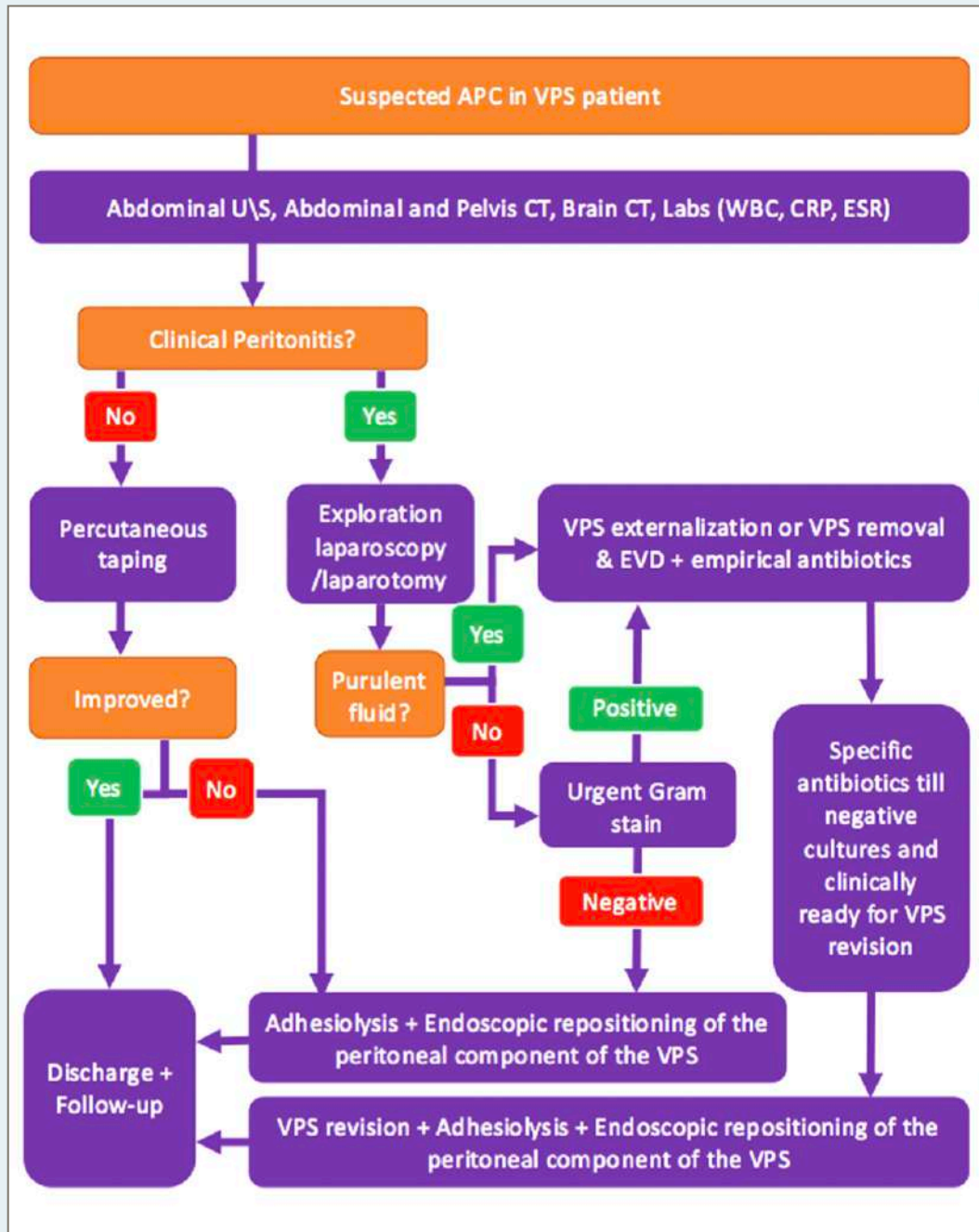
THE ANSWER

1. Cerebrospinal fluid pseudocyst.
2. Differential diagnoses: mesenteric abscess, pancreatic pseudocyst, lymphocele, cystic lymphangioma, mesenteric cyst, omental cyst, seroma, urinoma. seroma, urinoma, abscess, lymphocele and cerebrospinal fluid based on imaging findings alone.
3. U&E, CBC, CSF analysis, liver profile and inflammatory markers. Imaging wise Brain CT and abdomen CT.
4. The pathophysiology underlying the development of an abdominal CSF pseudocyst is not well understood. It has been postulated that an inflammatory process may significantly influence the formation of a CSF pseudocyst. It is possible that this is related either to infection, as this plays an important role in the formation of CSF pseudocysts, or to a peritoneal reaction to VPS. Other causes such as multiple shunt revisions, peritoneal adhesions and elevated CSF proteins may also influence the buildup of CSF within a cyst.
5. B) Axial enhanced computed tomography showing a large loculated fluid (asterisk) displacing the bowel laterally (arrows). The shunt can be seen within the fluid (arrowhead). C) Axial unenhanced computed tomography showing the intraventricular location of the shunt (arrow) with no hydrocephalus.
6. If the patient does not show signs and symptoms of peritonitis, laboratory tests should be performed. If inflammatory markers such as (white blood cell) WBC and (C-reactive protein) CRP are elevated, the patient should be treated as a case of peritonitis. If the levels of typical inflammatory markers are not elevated, it is recommended to proceed with percutaneous tapping as a treatment option. However, in these cases, follow-up is of utmost importance as some patients may require repeated tapping. In addition, percutaneous drainage can be used as a tool to relieve symptoms if it precedes exploratory laparotomy or laparoscopy. If the patient has normal laboratory values and no improvement with repeated percutaneous drainage, they should be treated as a case of peritonitis.

CLINICAL CHALLENGE

#3

THE ANSWER



Reference:

Fatani GM, Bustangi NM, Kamal JS, Sabbagh AJ. Ventriculoperitoneal shunt-associated abdominal cerebrospinal fluid pseudocysts and the role of laparoscopy and a proposed management algorithm in its treatment. A report of 2 cases. *Neurosciences (Riyadh)*. 2020 Aug;25(4):320-326. doi: 10.17712/nsj.2020.4.20200053. PMID: 33130815; PMCID: PMC8015616.

NEWS

Visiting Professor at the Division of Neurosurgery, King Abdulaziz Medical City, MNGH-HA

Prof. Badih Adada, Florida, USA, was the 2023 Visiting Professor for Division of Neurosurgery, King Abdulaziz Medical City, MNGH-HA. We were honoured to receive the esteemed Visiting Professor, Prof. Badih Adada, Chairman of Neurosciences Institute, The John and Margaret Kruppa Chair in Neurosciences and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, Cleveland Clinic Florida, USA. During his 2-day visit, Prof Adada delivered a number of lectures, teaching sessions, case base discussion rounds and participated in our social activities. He gave two insightful and interesting lectures which were attended by a large number of our staff and residents.

Lecture 1:

"Pathologies of the skull base: Unlocking the Cavernous Sinus"

On 20 March at the NGA Neurosciences round, focusing on the latest advances in skull base surgery techniques

Lecture 2:

"Limbic structures and their surgical pathologies"

Hosted by the Riyadh Neuroscience Club (RNC). The Riyadh Intercontinental Hotel was the venue for this event.

The presentation focused on the latest surgical approaches to limbic system pathologies. The meeting was attended by many neurologists and neurosurgeons from all over the city.

Residents' experience:

It was a unique opportunity for our residents to interact with a leading expert in neurosurgery. Prof Adada spent his second day with the residents. He attended the morning meeting and presentations of the residents' surgical cases. They had the opportunity to meet privately over lunch and talk to him about the prospects of our residency program and possible future plans.

Prof. Badih Adada also had the opportunity to visit the facilities at King Abdulaziz Medical City. He had the opportunity to accompany us on a short visit to the most important historical and modern icons of Riyadh. The visiting professor for 2024 has not yet been named.



NEUROSURGERY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE !



Dear colleagues and guests,

On behalf of the Saudi Association of Neurological Surgery (SANS) and the

University of Jazan and

the Organising and Scientific Committee, it gives me great pleasure to cordially invite you to the 18th Annual SANS Meeting. The event will be held from 9 to 11 February 2024 at the Grand Millennium Hotel in the beautiful city of Jazan, Saudi Arabia. "Promoting Neurosurgery: Taking the Leap" is our theme this year to embrace neurosurgery at its current pivot. In the heart of Jazan, surrounded by its beauty, charm and rich cultural heritage, we are inspired to take the leap, push the boundaries and have a lasting impact on our patients in all cities across the Kingdom.

The two-day conference will feature internationally and nationally renowned pioneers in neurosurgery. Their presence guarantees stimulating discussions and learning from the best in the field. Pre-conference workshops will be held to provide hands-on training in

neurosurgical subspecialties. We invite you to enjoy the culture of Jazan through our exciting social programmes, while the conference enriches you academically. This is an opportunity to make lifelong friendships and memories. I welcome you to the 18th Annual SANS in Jazan. In February 2024, we will dare to dream and take the leap together.

**18TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE SAUDI ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY**

Promoting Neurosurgery: Taking The Leap

WORKSHOP
9th FEB 2024

CONFERENCE
10th - 11th FEB 2024

GRAND
MILLENNIUM
GIZAN

CME
ACCREDITED

POWERED BY
KanoorRelaj

NEUROSURGERY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE !

جامعة الملك سعود
King Saud University

VISION 2030
رؤية 2030

الأكاديمية السعودية للتخصصات الصحية
SANS ACADEMY

1ST HYBRID MIDLINE SKULL-BASE DISSECTION WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2023

**Experimental Surgery & Animal Laboratory,
College of Medicine, King Saud University,
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

Registration Fees:
Hands-on: 4000 SR Observer: 1500 SR

For Registration:

الهيئة السعودية للتخصصات الصحية
Saudi Commission for Health Specialties

11 CME ACCREDITED

Medtronic

NEUROSURGERY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE !

The neurosurgical bootcamp was launched 6 years ago in collaboration between Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University and SANS academy. Since then, we have conducted more than 10 neurosurgical bootcamps for students and residents. This year, the bootcamp will be held on September 9, 10 and 11 at IAU's University. Each bootcamp for residents is usually attended by 20-30 new candidates from the Saudi Board and the IAU Board of Neurosurgery. The camp is free of charge and is designed to teach the newcomers the basics of neurosurgery. Several program directors and consultants from around the Kingdom share their knowledge and experience with the residents

جامعة الإمام عبد الرحمن بن فيصل
IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY

6th SANS Academy
Neurosurgery Resident Training Boot Camp

September 9-11, 2023

Medical Educational Center (Site 1),
King Fahd Hospital of the University, Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia

Target Audience:
New Residents in Neurosurgery Training Programs

For registration requests click the barcode

Free Registration

Program

DAY 1 - September 9, 2023

7:30-8:00 Registration and Opening Ceremony	Prof. A. AlAnazi/ Dr.W. Al Issawi
8:00-8:15 Introduction to Residency	Dr. Abdulrazag Ajan
BASIC ANATOMY AND NEURORADIOLOGY	
8:15-9:00 Cranial Anatomy	Dr. Mohammed Bafaquh
9:00-9:45 Cranial Neuroradiology	Dr. Suliman Al Oqail
9:45-10:00 Break	
10:00-10:45 Spinal Anatomy	Dr. Ibrahim Alhalal/ Dr. S Alsalmi
10:45-11:30 Spinal Neuroradiology	Dr. Abdulrahman Al Abdulwahhab
11:30-11:45 Neurosurgical Anesthesia and Pain	Dr. Saeed Al Shadwi
11:45-12:00 Neurosurgical Ethics	Dr. Ahmed Lary
12:00-1:00 Lunch Break	
NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION	
1:00-1:30 Resident's Experience	Dr. Abdulelah Alluhaybi
1:30-2:00 Career Road Mapping in Neurosurgery	Dr. A. Ajan/ Dr. F. Al Matrafi
2:00-2:45 Cranial Nerve Examination	
2:45-3:00 Break	
3:00-3:45 Cerebellar Examination.	Dr. W. Al Issawi/ Dr. M. Bafaquh
3:45-4:30 Upper & Lower Extremity Examination	Dr.N.Alnaghmoosh/Dr.J.Alhalal

Program

DAY 2- September 10, 2023

8:00-8:20 Cranial Emergencies and High ICP	Dr. Wisam Al Issawi
8:20-8:40 Approach to Head Trauma	Dr. Hosam Al-Jehani
8:40-9:00 Spinal Emergencies and Red Flags	Dr. Nabeel Alnaghmoosh
9:00-9:20 Vascular Neurosurgery 101	Dr. Hosam Al-Jehani
9:20-9:40 Brain Tumors101	Dr. Abdulrazag Ajan
9:40-9:50 Break	
9:50-10:10 Neurological Emergencies	Dr. Faisal Al Abbas
10:10-10:30 Introduction to Pediatric Neurosurgery	Dr. Abdulrazag Ajan
10:30-10:50 Ergonomics	Dr. Wisam Al Issawi
10:50-12:00 Open Discussion (Career Advisory)	All Faculty
12:00-1:00 Lunch Break	
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION	
1:00-1:45 Neuronavigation	Prof. Abdulrahman Al-Anazi
1:45-2:30 Obtaining Consent	Dr. Ahmed Lary
2:30-3:15 Breaking bad news	Dr. Wisam Al Issawi
3:15-3:25 Break	
3:25-4:10 Patient endorsement between residents	Dr. Wisam Al Issawi
4:10-4:55 Microscope Introduction	Dr. Mohammad Alkutbi
DAY 3- September 11, 2023	
HANDS ON	
8:00-10:00 Anatomical landmarks, positioning, Mayfield	Dr. M. Bafaquh/ Dr. A. Ajan
10:00-12:00 Cranial and spinal instruments & handling	Dr. A. Lary/ Dr. W. Al Issawi
12:00-1:00 Lunch Break	
1:00-3:00 Draping & Cranial Approaches (EVD, Burr hole, ICP)	Dr. N.Alnaghmoosh/Dr.J.Alhalal
3:00-5:00 Spinal Approaches (Traction, Halo, LP, LD)	/Dr. Sultan Alsalmi

NEUROSURGERY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE !

7th ARABSPINE Annual Meeting
1st NATIONAL GUARD Cadaveric Course

Craniocervical Dissection Course

9-10 NOVEMBER 2023

DAY 1, Nov. 9th
Crano-cervical Junction Cadaveric Dissection Course
Tactics & debates

- Hands-on Dissection
- Expert Panel Discussion
- National and international faculty
- Live Surgery

DAY 2, Nov. 10th
Arabspine Scientific Meeting

- Crano-cervical Junction Disorders
- Spinal Tumors
- Degenerative Scoliosis
- Spinal Trauma

Hyatt Regency Riyadh Olaya

For Registration, please click on the link below:
<https://arabspine2023.com/register>

Prof. AHMAD ALKHANI
Chairman, Organizing Committee

Dr. WAEL ALSHAYA
Cadaveric Course Director

7th ARABSPINE Annual Meeting
1st NATIONAL GUARD Cadaveric Course

Arabspine International Faculty

Prof. Zohar Ghogawala
USA

Prof. David Wong
USA

Prof. Richard Assaker
France

Arabspine Faculties (CONFIRMED)

Abdulkareem msaadi (UAE)	Said Hilmani (Morocco)	Mohammed Alfawaara (Jordan)
Mohamed Wafa (Egypt)	Hani Meniawi (Syria)	Abdessamad Alazhari (Morocco)
Amer Shurbaji (Jordan)	Siraj Balkhair (Qatar)	Ali Maashani (Oman)
	Khalid Kuwari (Bahrain)	

National Faculty (CONFIRMED)

Mohammed Halawani	Ahmed Alzahrani	Rami Alshamrani	Abdulrahman Alarjani
Abdulkareem Alrabea	Salah Akkad	Fareed Binhoof	Faisal Qubnaz
Abdulwahid Barnawi	Fahad Alhelal	Fadi Ghareeb	Faisal Farrash



Scan me!

for more information

NEUROSURGERY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE !

7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SAUDI SPINE SOCIETY
RIYADH 17-19 NOV 2023

Target Audience

- Orthopedic Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Anesthesia, Pain Management
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Interventional Radiology
- Neurology
- Physiotherapy
- Endocrinology
- Nursing
- Others

WORKSHOPS November 17, 2023

CONFERENCE November 18-19, 2023

COLLABORATING SOCIETIES

EURO SPINE **NASS** **AO SPINE** **ISMA** **SMS** **ASCS**

POWERED BY **CME ACCREDITED**

Venue:
CROWNE PLAZA
 AN IHG HOTEL
 RIVADH

admin@saudispine.org | @SaudiSpine | www.saudispine.org

Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Google+, LinkedIn, Telegram, Snapchat

Click [here](#) for more information

NEUROSURGERY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

September
09-13
2023

The 2023 CNS Annual Meeting
Washington, D.C.

Learn

December
04-08
2023

**The 2023 WFNS World
Congress Of Neurosurgery**
Cape Town

Learn

For more information ,you can reach us at:



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<http://www.sans.org.sa>

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

Issue 3

SANS

Saudi Arabia