

Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls



# Newsletter

APRIL 2023 EDITION



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# Dean's Message



Remember that your success is our top priority, and we are here to support you every step of the way. Whether you need academic guidance, career advice, or personal support, our doors are always open.

*Prof. Saeed Ahmed Khan Dean. DPC*

# Breaking News

The top hospitals in the UAE are where our students began their hospital training.



The Advanced Professional Practice Experience (hospital training) for Batch 28 has officially commenced in April 2023. This training program is an essential component of our college curriculum, enabling our students to gain hands-on experience in real-life hospital settings. The training will be conducted across 9 major hospitals in Dubai and Sharjah, providing our students with a comprehensive understanding of the healthcare system in the UAE. We are confident that this program will equip our students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their future careers as healthcare professionals. We wish Batch 28 all the best for their training and look forward to seeing their growth and development throughout their hospital placements.



# Research Contribution



# Administration and professors from Medical College No. 2 (Moscow, Russian Federation) visit Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls.

The purpose of the visit was to establish an academic experience exchange and explore potential partnership opportunities with Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls. Both colleges will share research facilities and expertise to work together on joint research projects that can benefit the global healthcare community.



## Over-the-counter antibiotics dispensing: Knowledge and practice of community pharmacists in the United Arab Emirates

The college is delighted to congratulate Dr. Hanan Anbar, Dr. Doaa Kamal and their Master's student Ms. Sumaya Jairoun for the publication of the article entitled "Over-the-counter antibiotics dispensing: Knowledge and practice of community pharmacists in the United Arab Emirates" in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (SCOPUS-indexed journal). Congratulation on the achievement!



# Gastro-retentive drug delivery technologies and their applications with cardiovascular medications

Authors: Mustafa Musa Khalaf, Sanaz Shapoor Alinejad, Oday Sajad, Bazigha K. Abdul Rasool\*



An excellent research work on Gastro retentive drug delivery technologies and their applications with cardiovascular medications by collaboration between the Department of Pharmaceutics, College of Pharmacy, University of Basrah, Iraq and the Pharmaceutics Department, Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Bazigha Master student Israa Saad's thesis discussion was held on April 6, 2023, at the University of Basrah.

The examination committee accepted her thesis as one of the requirements for her graduation with a grade of Excellent.



Assistant Professor Dr. Falah Hassan Shari, Dean of Pharmacy College at the University of Basrah, acknowledged Prof. Dr. Bazigha Abdul Rasool, Head of Pharmaceutics Department, Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls for her kind scientific support as a supervisor and examiner of Israa's thesis.

Also, Dr. Falah offered Dr. Bazigha a memento for this collaboration.



# Novel Anti-Acanthamoebic Activities of Irosustat and STX140 and Their Nanoformulations

We are pleased to share a new publication by Dr. Hanan Anbar in collaborations with colleagues in University of Sharjah and University of Oxford in Antibiotics (SCOPUS-indexed-Q1 journal). The article's title is "Novel Anti-Acanthamoebic Activities of Irosustat and STX140 and Their Nanoformulations". Congratulation on the achievement!



The image shows the cover of the journal 'Antibiotics' published by MDPI. The title of the article is 'Novel Anti-Acanthamoebic Activities of Irosustat and STX140 and Their Nanoformulations'. The authors listed are Ruqaiyyah Siddiqui, Mutasem Rawas-Qalaji, Mohammed I. El-Gamal, Sreedevi Sajeew, Jayalakshmi Jagal, Seyed-Omar Zarai, Rawan M. Sbenati, Hanan S. Anbar, Wolfgang Dohle, Barry V. L. Potter, and Naveed Ahmed Khan. The abstract describes the study of Irosustat and STX140 against *A. castellanii* and their nanoformulations. The journal cover includes the MDPI logo and a 'check for updates' icon.

**Article**  
**Novel Anti-Acanthamoebic Activities of Irosustat and STX140 and Their Nanoformulations**

Ruqaiyyah Siddiqui<sup>1,2</sup>, Mutasem Rawas-Qalaji<sup>3,4,\*</sup>, Mohammed I. El-Gamal<sup>3,5,6</sup>, Sreedevi Sajeew<sup>7</sup>, Jayalakshmi Jagal<sup>3</sup>, Seyed-Omar Zarai<sup>3</sup>, Rawan M. Sbenati<sup>3</sup>, Hanan S. Anbar<sup>8</sup>, Wolfgang Dohle<sup>9</sup>, Barry V. L. Potter<sup>9</sup> and Naveed Ahmed Khan<sup>2,7,\*</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacotherapeutics, Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls, Dubai 19099, United Arab Emirates  
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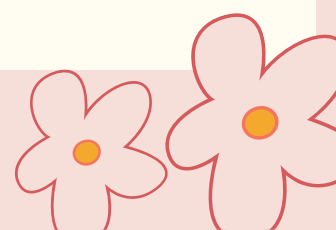
**Abstract:** Pathogenic *Acanthamoeba* produce keratitis and fatal granulomatous amoebic encephalitis. Treatment remains problematic and often ineffective, suggesting the need for the discovery of novel compounds. For the first time, here we evaluated the effects of the anticancer drugs Irosustat and STX140 alone, as well as their nanoformulations, against *A. castellanii* via amoebicidal, excystment, cytopathogenicity, and cytotoxicity assays. Nanoformulations of the compounds were successfully synthesized with high encapsulation efficiency of 94% and 82% for Irosustat and STX140, respectively. Nanoparticles formed were spherical in shape and had a unimodal narrow particle size distribution, mean of 145 and 244 nm with a polydispersity index of 0.3, and surface charge of -14 and -15 mV, respectively. Irosustat and STX140 exhibited a biphasic release profile with almost 100% drug released after 48 h. Notably, Irosustat significantly inhibited *A. castellanii* viability and amoebae-mediated cytopathogenicity and inhibited the phenotypic transformation of amoebae cysts into the trophozoite form, however their nanoformulations depicted limited effects against amoebae but exhibited minimal cytotoxicity when tested against human cells using lactate dehydrogenase release assays. Accordingly, both compounds have potential for further studies, with the hope of discovering novel anti-*Acanthamoeba* compounds, and potentially developing targeted therapy against infections of the central nervous system.

check for updates

Citation: Siddiqui, R.; Rawas-Qalaji, M.; El-Gamal, M.I.; Sajeew, S.; Jagal, J.; Zarai, S.-O.; Sbenati, R.M.; Anbar, H.S.; Dohle, W.; Potter, B.V.L.; et al. Novel Anti-Acanthamoebic Activities of Irosustat and STX140 and Their Nanoformulations. *Antibiotics* **2023**, *12*, 561. <https://doi.org/10.3390/antibiotics12030561>

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Received: 23 January 2023  
Revised: 2 March 2023





# Clinical Case Studies on Medication Safety

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Dr. Ammar Ali Saleh Jaber has received another publication :

" I am delighted to share that my co-authored work, "Clinical Case Studies on Medication Safety", has been accepted and published under ELSEVIER. this is an incredible accomplishment, and I feel immensely proud and grateful to be one of the co-authors, having contributes to four chapters. Alhamdulillah! I am deeply humbled to be recognized in this way and look forward to future publications "

Dr. Ammar Ali

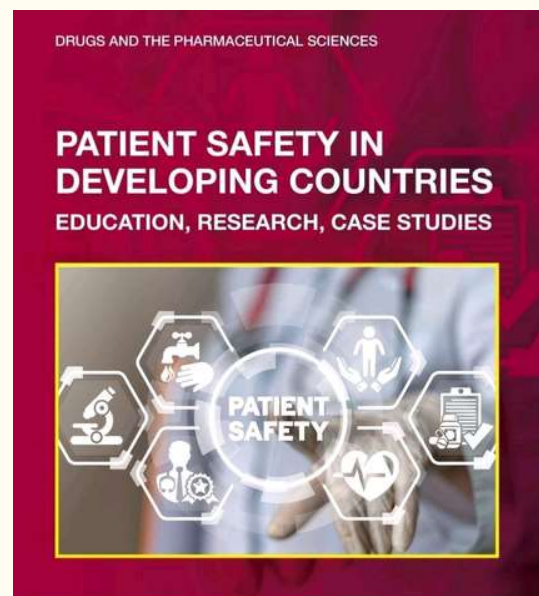


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## Contributing author of the published book: Patient Safety in Developing Countries

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Dr. Ammar Ali Saleh Jaber has received another publication as a contributing author of a recently published book on Patient Safety in Developing Countries, which was published by Taylor and Francis.



# Are Pharmacists' knowledge and practice the key to promoting deprescribing of potentially inappropriate medication: a missing link between treatment and outcomes

The college is delighted to congratulate Dr. Ammar Ali Saleh Jaber on his recent publication in the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice.



# Knowledge and attitude towards antibiotic use and resistance among Arab population: a questionnaire- based study of 11 countries from the Middle East and North Africa

Dr. Ammar Ali Saleh Jaber has received another publication in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Service Research, and the college is eager to congratulate him on it.



# Knowledge and attitude towards antibiotic use and resistance among Arab population: a questionnaire-based study of 11 countries from the Middle East and North Africa

Bassam Abdul Rasool Hassan<sup>1</sup>, Ali Haider Mohammed<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Watheq Mohammed AL-Jewari<sup>1</sup>, Ali Blebil<sup>1,2,10</sup>, Juman Dujaili<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Abdulrasool M. Wayyes<sup>1</sup>, Diana Malaeb<sup>4,5</sup>, Mariam Dabbous<sup>4</sup>, Gamil Othman<sup>6</sup>, Abdelhaleem Mustafa Madani<sup>7,8</sup>, Ahmed Talib Al-Zaabi<sup>9</sup>, Amira Zerrouki<sup>10</sup>, Rula M. Darwish<sup>11</sup>, Sara Abu Alhija<sup>12</sup>, Chema Drira<sup>13,14,10</sup>, Fazaa Ikram<sup>15</sup>, Ammar Ali Saleh Jaber<sup>16</sup>,



# Assessment of Prescribing Practices and Factors Related to Antibiotic Prescribing in Community Pharmacies

Another publication by Dr. Ammar Ali Saleh Jaber with colleagues from several universities in the United Arab Emirates



The image shows a screenshot of an article page on the MDPI website. At the top left is the MDPI logo. To the right are search and menu icons. Below the logo, the journal information is displayed: "Journals / Medicina / Volume 59 / Issue 5 / 10.3390/medicina59050843". A dark blue button labeled "Order Article Reprints" with a gear icon is positioned to the right. Below this, there are two tabs: "Open Access" (dark blue) and "Article" (red). The article title is prominently displayed in bold black text. The authors are listed below the title, each with a profile icon and a superscripted number. The affiliations are listed below the authors, numbered 1, 2, and 3. A footnote marked with an asterisk explains the correspondence author.

MDPI

Journals / Medicina / Volume 59 / Issue 5 /  
10.3390/medicina59050843

Order Article Reprints

Open Access Article

## Assessment of Prescribing Practices and Factors Related to Antibiotic Prescribing in Community Pharmacies

by  Syed Arman Rabbani <sup>1,\*</sup>  ,  
 Sathvik B. Sridhar <sup>1</sup> ,  Maryam Safdar <sup>1</sup>,  
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\* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.



SHARJAH  
ARTMENT  
HOME



مكفومة الشارقة  
ءائرة الءءماء الاءءاماءة  
ءار رءاءة المسءنن

# Community Engagement



# Saudi German Hospitals Group UAE Hosts Clinical Pharmacy Students from Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls

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Ceo of Saudi German Health Dr. Reem Osman, shared her vision about the overall healthcare system as she welcomed these bright minds on their first day of clinical training. Our hospital is privileged to host these students as they embark on this exciting journey. Saudi German Hospitals Group UAE are excited to mentor and guide these students as they gain invaluable practical experience and knowledge. let's support them as they embark on this transformative clinical training journey at Saudi German Hospitals Group UAE.



## Sharjah Social Service Department Iftar

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The students of DPC were invited by the Community Engagement Committee to attend an iftar event at the Sharjah Social Service Department on April 19th where they had the opportunity to spend time with the elderly members of the community. The fact that the students actively engaged in giving gifts to the elderly people is a testament to their kindness and compassion. Such community service initiatives are essential in promoting social harmony and fostering stronger bonds between different members of society. It was indeed heartwarming to see young people take an active role in serving their community



# Pharmaceutical Industrial Training (INTR) at Julphar

Pharmaceutical Industrial Training (INTR) enriches the undergraduate curriculum and bridges theory to application. The training program aims to expose students to various pharmaceutical processes, procedures, and regulations in the Research & Development, Production, Packaging, Quality Assurance, and Quality Control departments. The training is carried out in Julphar, RAK, UAE, and supervised and certified by Julphar Training Center (JTC) headed by Dr. Rasha Ahmed with her assistants Mr. Faruq and Mr. Zohaib. The faculty of the Pharmaceutics Department in our college, headed by Prof. Dr. Bazigha, is responsible for coordinating and arranging this training.



This training is offered to fourth-year students in the eighth semester to get adequate experience in the field. The course consists of 40 contact hours with several effective teaching methods that can be used during industrial training such as hands-on training, job shadowing, group training, simulation training, E-learning, Lectures, and Presentations. The assessment strategy is based on daily tutorial sessions, written reports, student assignments, and written final exams.







# Iftar Party



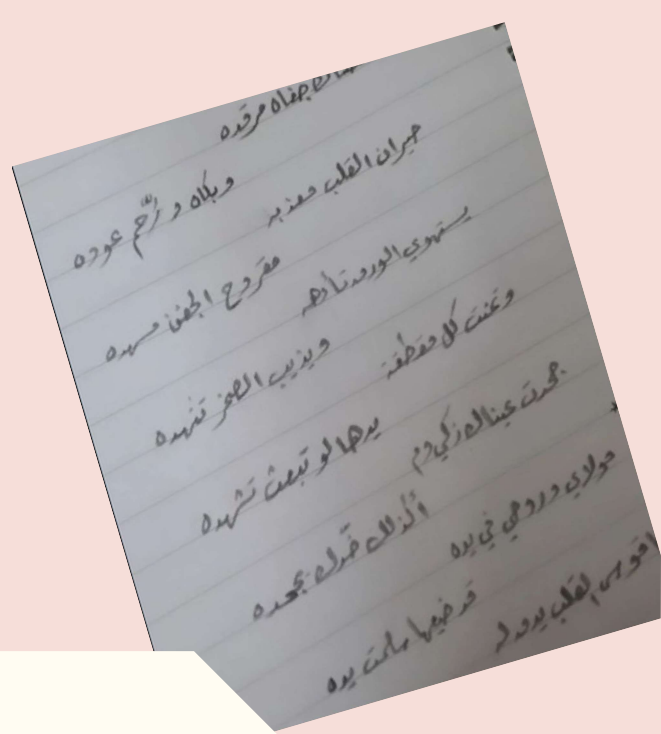
On April 5th, the DPCG and DMCG student unions collaborated to organize an unforgettable iftar party during the holy month of Ramadan. The event was attended by faculty, staff, and students from both institutions, and it provided a platform for them to come together and celebrate the spirit of the holy month. The party included several exciting activities, such as a Ramadan art competition, where participants showcased their beautiful artworks related to Ramadan. There were quizzes that challenged the participants' knowledge of Ramadan. The highlight of the event was the much-awaited iftar meal, where everyone gathered with loving hearts and raised hands for duas. Finally, the students were given gifts as a token of appreciation, and the event ended on a peaceful note. Overall, it was a successful collaboration between the DPC and DMCG student union, and it brought everyone together to create a memorable iftar experience.





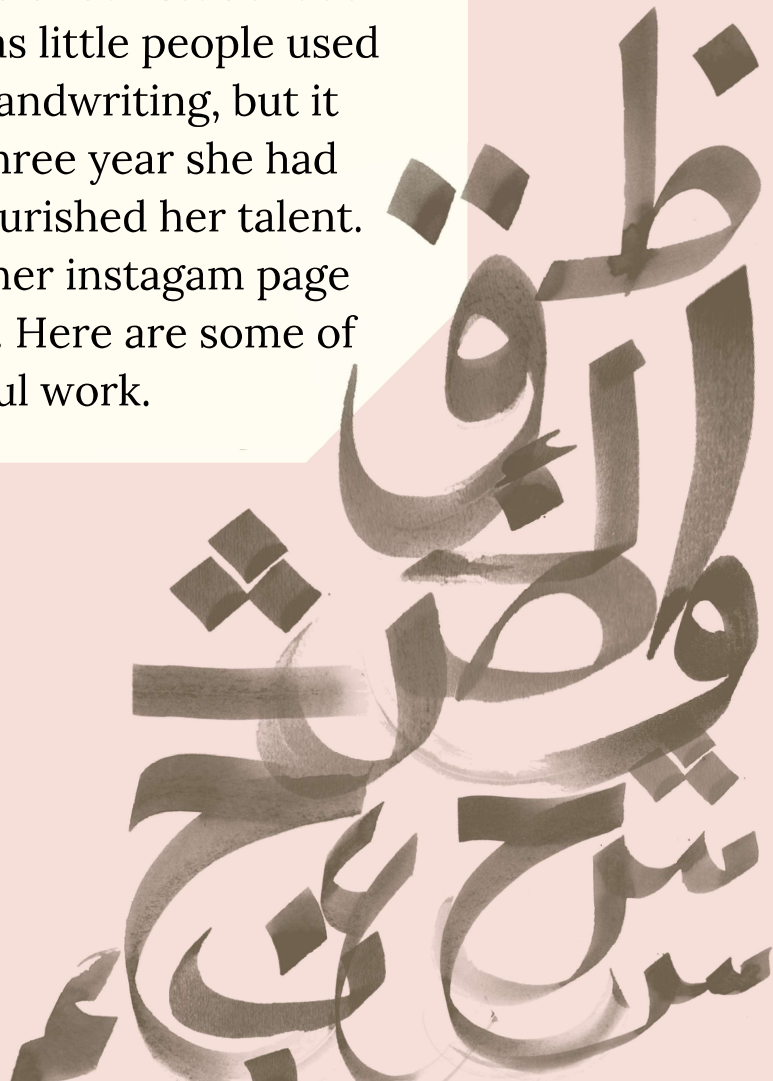
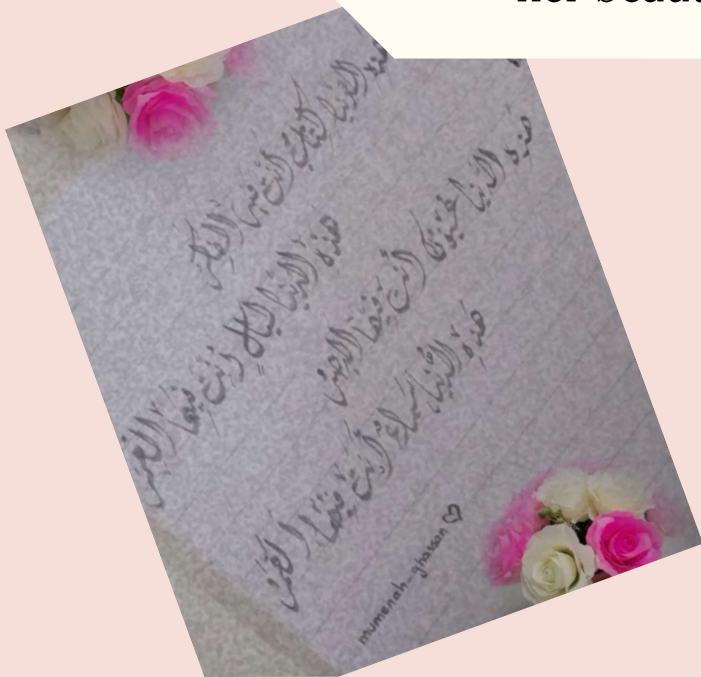


*Artistic  
Expressions..*



## Mumenah ghasan

“ You really have a nice handwriting” This was the sentence that pushed me to pursue my hobby, Arabic Calligraphy. I can say it has become my talent. These were the words of one of our student at DPC. Ever since she was little people used to compliment her handwriting, but it wan't until the past three year she had really focused and flourished her talent. She posts her art on her instagam page @mumenah\_ghassan. Here are some of her beautiful work.



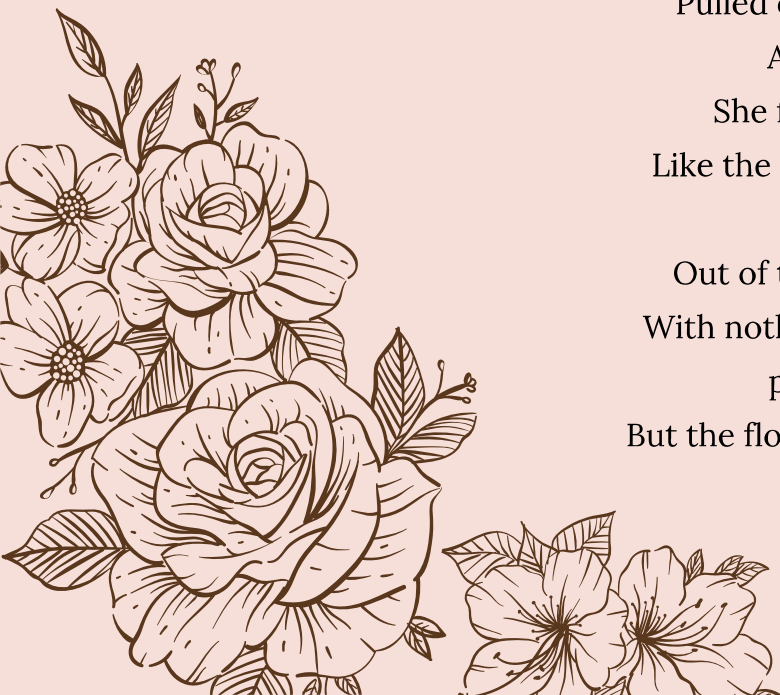


# Flowers of mind



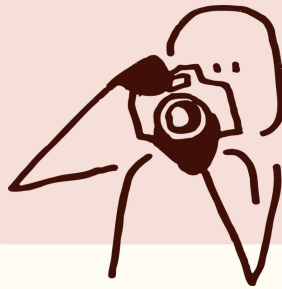
Enji Mohamed & Mariam Etri collaboration

The blow of the wind  
Rustling of the leaves  
The rippling sound  
Of the flowing creek  
The lonely young soul  
Sitting in harmony  
Her calm face  
Showing nothing but peace  
But don't be fooled  
By her serenity  
Behind those eyes  
Lies her true identity  
She turns every negative  
Into a blooming flower  
Giving it life  
When others let it get  
devoured  
By the teeth of their  
thoughts  
But unlike the norm  
Life stomped on her  
Cut her  
Pulled out her roots  
And yet  
She flourished  
Like the dandelion that  
grew  
Out of the concrete  
With nothing giving her  
power  
But the flowers she looked  
after

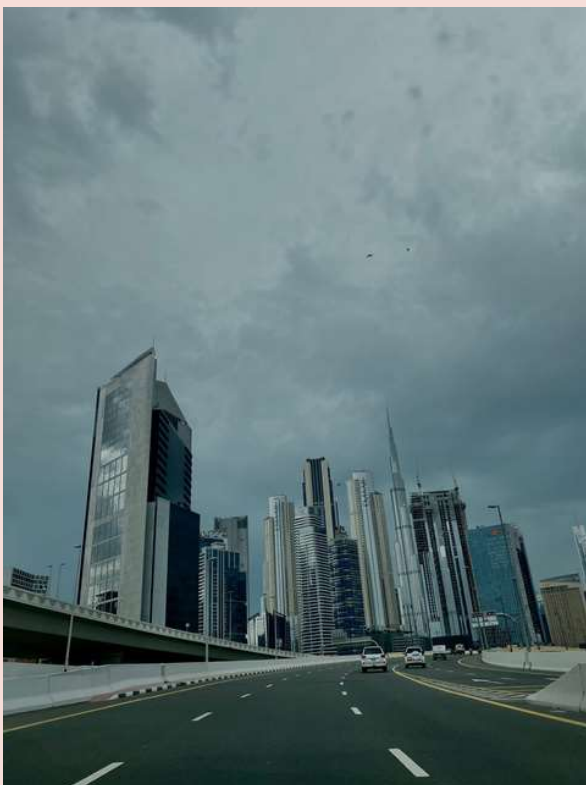


# Our Photographer Asma Ahmed

Batch 30



She says : “ I had never considered shooting photographs until I attempted photography and discovered that it was more than just capturing photographs...! It lingers over me and inspires me in a variety of ways. Until now, I've been attempting to grow in this field and be as professional as possible. These are a few examples of my photoshoots. I hope you enjoy them. “



# NOVEL HEART FAILURE MEDICATION

## Over view:

Rahaf Alzeer (batch 29) supervised by  
Dr.Semira Beshir

**Hypertension** is an asymptomatic disease with high prevalence worldwide that continues to grow.

It's a leading cause of cardiovascular mortality and morbidity worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 1.13 billion people have hypertension globally, with adequate control in less than 20% of these patients.

Sacubitril/valsartan is a first-in-class angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor (ARNi) drug regimen that is used to treat heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF). It represents a novel, dual class, single-molecule property that may be taken in consideration as one of the new antihypertensive treatments in clinical settings.



## What is sacubitril/valsartan [ENTRESTO]?

**ENTRESTO** It's composed of, sacubitril and valsartan, in equal moieties. Sacubitril functions by inhibiting Neprilysin's activity, thus, enhancing the levels of certain natural substances called "peptides"; which have a role in the regulation of blood pressure and fluids/electrolytes balance.

Valsartan on the other hand, works by blocking angiotensin receptors, thus, suppressing the effects of angiotensin II hormone, which could increase the blood pressure levels if it's activated. Valsartan shows sympatholytic, diuretic, natriuretic, vasodilatory, and insulin-sensitizing effects mostly via cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP)-mediated pathways.



## How should I take sacubitril/valsartan?

Sacubitril/valsartan is taken orally, usually twice a day. Taking it with or without food is acceptable.

It's necessary to take sacubitril/valsartan precisely as instructed by your healthcare provider. Avoid changing your medication's dosage or stop taking it unless consulting with a healthcare professional.

## Use in Specific Populations

**Pregnancy and Lactation:** drug should be discontinued.

When pregnancy is detected, discontinue ENTRESTO as soon as possible; as FETAL TOXICITY could take place; drugs that act directly on the renin-angiotensin system can cause injury and death to the developing fetus.

**Severe Hepatic Impairment:** Use not recommended.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

Sacubitril/valsartan should be taken as soon as you remember if you miss a dose. Skip the missed dose and carry on with your regular dosing plan if it is almost time for your next dose. To make up for a missing dose, do not take a second one.

## What are the possible side effects of sacubitril/valsartan?

Like all medications, it shows undesirable effects in some cases. The most common side effects include low blood pressure, increased potassium levels in the blood “hyperkalaemia”, and kidney problems. Other possible side effects include dizziness, cough, diarrhoea, and headache.

**If you experience any side effects while taking sacubitril/valsartan, contact your healthcare provider right away.**

## Who should not take sacubitril/valsartan?

Sacubitril/valsartan is not appropriate for everyone, especially

- Patients who have severe liver problems, or patients who are pregnant.

It may also not be appropriate for patients with certain kidney problems or who are taking certain medications, like: **ACE inhibitors and aliskiren in patients with diabetes.**

Hypersensitivity to any component

- It should not be taken by patients who have had an allergic reaction to either sacubitril or valsartan.

History of angioedema related to previous ACEi or ARB therapy.

**Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions and medications before starting sacubitril/valsartan.**



## What to avoid?

- Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy.
- Get up slowly and steady yourself to prevent a fall.
- Do not use potassium supplements or salt substitutes while you are taking Entresto unless your doctor has told you to.
- Drinking alcohol can further lower your blood pressure and may increase certain side effects of Entresto.

## How should ENTRESTO be stored?

Keep ENTRESTO tablets between 68°F and 77°F (20°C and 25°C) at room temperature.

Keep ENTRESTO pills away from water.

Bottles of ENTRESTO oral suspension should be kept at room temperature for up to 15 days at a temperature below 77°F (25°C). Avoid cooling down ENTRESTO oral suspension.

Keep ENTRESTO and all medications away from children's reach.



A Glance  
Ahead

# 2nd Semester Trip To Motiongate 📍

*date announced as May 3, 2023*

College travel has a profound effect on the student. Motion gate can be the perfect destination if you are a fanatic Hollywood movie fan who is obsessed with Hollywood films. The four theme park zones are based on Hollywood's unbelievable power and dominance. At the Dragon Glider Zone, you may experience the amazing feeling of flying, or at the Madagascar Pursuit, you can ride the tallest roller coaster in the world. A green hornet and a zombie land blast are also present. This exhilarating theme park offers thrilling rides and attractions based on on some of the most recognizable and popular recent film franchises. There, you can actually run into your favorite characters and get a picture to take home.





# First Aid Course

( Tentative booking) on Friday 12th of May



People frequently undervalue the need for fundamental first aid training. Many factors contribute to individuals delaying it.

First, they lack the time.

They are unsure about where to start.

They don't think that they or those close to them will ever have an accident.

When an emergency occurs, a trained individual is more dependable, certain, and in charge of themselves. People who have received training are more likely to act quickly in an emergency.

It enables the rescuer to console the sufferer. A first aid expert can provide the sufferer with relief right away. The patient may unwind while their injuries are being handled and stabilized until emergency professionals arrive by remaining composed and evaluating the situation.

For all these reasons, we believe it is essential that we take part in a First Aid course for our own benefit

Register Now !!!



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This month's newsletter is dedicated to our former newsletter head:

Fathima Firoz (Batch 28)

We appreciate all of your work generating and maintaining the newsletter for the last five issues (2022-2023).

MISSING  
YOU

# Your feedback

We hope you enjoyed this issue of “DPCG ” newsletter. Please let us know how we can make the newsletter more engaging and informative by emailing us at [dpcgnewsletter@dpc.edu](mailto:dpcgnewsletter@dpc.edu)

If you would like to submit news, updates, or contribution; please SEND US on [dpcgnewsletter@dpc.edu](mailto:dpcgnewsletter@dpc.edu)

## MEET THE TEAM



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Co-editor & Reviewer : Dr. Rana Sammour

Editorial Supervisors : Ms. Sadaf Sana & Ms. Yasmeim Salem

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Sana Nazim (Batch 31)

Sarah Abdelfattah (Batch 31)

Afra Abdul Aziz (Batch 30)

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