

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
SECOND SYMPOSIUM IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH
May 12, 2012, Furno Hall, Bethlehem University

Dear Colleagues,

The joint Molecular Biotechnology Master Program at Bethlehem and Palestine Polytechnic Universities and the Dean of Research office at Bethlehem University in cooperation with the Palestinian Forum for Medical Research (PFMR) are organizing "The Second Biomedical Research Symposium". The symposium targets research work being carried out by Palestinian graduate students.

The symposium cordially invites all graduate students in the Palestinian Universities and other institutions to submit their abstracts starting January 15 through March 15 2012. Researchers will be informed of the acceptance of their abstracts no later than April 1st.

Abstracts

The purpose of the abstract is:

1. To enable the Scientific Committee to make an informed decision on the suitability of the proposed presentation for the symposium program.
2. To provide participants attending the symposium with written information on the presentation.

Call for abstracts

Abstracts are invited from all areas of biomedical research including, but not limited to:

- Public Health
- Microbiology
- Genetic
- Cancer
- Parasitology
- Virology
- Immunology
- Genomics and Proteomics
- Bioinformatics
- Biomedical ethics, Governance Challenges, and Regulations
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Pathology and Histopathology
- Haematology
- Pharmacology and Toxicology
- Aging
- Clinical Research
- Neuroscience
- Pharmaceutics
- Health Informatics

Please send your abstract as an attached Microsoft word document to the following e- mails: biomed@bethlehem.edu

Guidelines for Author's Preparation of Abstracts

Title: The title should be in bold, sentence case with no full stop at the end

Authors: Names of authors should be in Times New Roman, size 12 fonts, as first name and surname with no full stop. Underline the name of the corresponding author. Author names should be separated by a comma. Where authors are from a number of different institutions, the appropriate institution number from the affiliation list should be given as a superscript number immediately after each author's name.

Affiliations: Affiliations should include department, institute, town and country. Where there are multiple affiliations, each should be listed as a separate paragraph. Each institute should appear in the order used against the author names and show the appropriate superscript number.

Main text:

- Should not be more than 400 words.
- Please use Times New Roman, size 12 fonts and single line spacing.
- Use hard returns only to end headings and paragraphs, not to rearrange lines
- Greek and other special characters may be included. If you are unable to reproduce a particular special character, please type out the name of the symbol in full.
- Web links (URLs) should be provided in full, including both the title of the site and the URL, in the following format: Mouse Tumor Biology Database [http://tumor.informatics.jax.org/cancer_links.html], include also the accessed date
- Abbreviations should be used as sparingly as possible.

Structured abstracts In structured abstracts, paragraph headings should be typed in **bold** with no colon at the end. Each heading should be in a separate paragraph, e.g.:

Background

Followed by regular text, on a new line and in the same format as indicated for the main text.

Materials and Methods

Results

Conclusions

The following presents an example of what abstract should be like:

HEARING LOSS IN THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION IS A MODEL FOR GENETIC HETEROGENEITY

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Moien Kanaan¹

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Background

Recessively inherited phenotypes are frequent in the Palestinian population as the result of a long historical tradition of marriages within extended families. Traditionally, gene localization in these families has been achieved with microsatellite linkage mapping.

Materials and Methods

We demonstrate that genome wide screening with high density SNP arrays is an effective method for pinpointing causative genes and novel loci in consanguineous Palestinian families.

Results

We genotyped 84 deaf and 84 hearing sibs or parents, from 21 families, on Affymetrix 250K SNP arrays. We generated deafness-associated homozygosity profiles from the SNP data in each family. We defined a peak of homozygosity as a contiguous region greater than 2MB where SNPs were homozygous for one allele among affected members but discordant (heterozygous or homozygous for the complement allele) from unaffected relatives in the pedigree, either parents or sibs. For 15/21 families the longest homozygous peak mapped to a genomic region that included a known deafness gene. Sequencing the relevant gene from each peak region identified 12 deleterious alleles, 10 of which were novel. They included premature truncations of OTOF, PEJK,TECTA, and TMPRSS3, and a large genomic deletion of OTOA that was mediated by a segmental duplication. The mutational spectrum also included novel missense alleles of LHFPL5, MYO15A, MYO7A and CDH23, which were determined to be pathogenic based on molecular modeling tools. Six of the 21 families harbor mutations in as-yet-unknown genes for inherited hearing loss.

Conclusion

SNP-based homozygosity mapping defines the genomic locales of hearing loss novel loci with considerable precision. Inherited hearing loss in the Palestinian population is highly heterogeneous, both in number of genes and in alleles at each gene.

Abstract Grading

Abstracts submitted to the symposium are peer reviewed by a scientific panel. The criteria by which the reviewers will make their recommendations are listed below. The criteria are listed here in the form of a checklist for you to use prior to submitting your abstract. You may also like to invite a "critical friend" to review your abstract against these criteria before you submit your abstract. If you have a "0.0" grade in any of the criterion you can then amend your abstract before you submit it and hence increase the potential for your abstract to be accepted and included in the symposium program.

Criteria for abstract selection

	Grading System	The used scale is from 0 - 4, where 0 is lowest and 4 is truly exceptional.
1	The abstract must be about biomedical research project or a research related issue	
2	Material presented in abstracts must be concise and coherent, with the focus of the abstract and its relevance to Palestinian audience stated clearly.	
3	The authors must make explicit what they intend to present.	
4	The abstract title should be short and clearly declare the content of the abstract.	
5	Abstracts of empirical studies must outline the research process and the focus of the analysis, they must indicate the month(s) and year(s) when the data were collected and provide an indication of the results. (NB an abstract will not be accepted if data has not already been collected).	
6	Abstracts reporting on the results of research studies should be structured: background, aims, methods, results, discussion and conclusions. (see template, attached)	
7	Statistics including sample size and sampling method used must be supplied where appropriate.	
8	Relevant contextual information must be	

	given.	
9	Authors must specify how the paper will contribute to the development of global knowledge and its contribution to policy and practice within health and health care.	
10	All abstracts must be written in English. All accepted abstracts will be published as submitted. It is therefore incumbent to ensure that the spelling, grammar and syntax is of an academic publishing standard.	

- Each question (row) has to be answered with a score according to the grading system suggested for every item (**0 to 4**).
- The **total score** obtained by an abstract is computed by simply adding scores of all questions.
- Abstracts scoring **zero** for the item **Consider for presentation** will automatically obtain a **total score** of **zero**.
- A high scoring abstract may reach a **maximum** score of **40 points**.
- The final and **decisive score** of an abstract will be the **average of scores** given by all reviewers.
- Score sheets of each reviewer will not be communicated with other members of the Scientific Committee.
- Only the Chairperson and his/her deputy of the Scientific Committee reserve this right to ensure the proper computation of all abstract scores.

Organizing Committee

Prof. Adnan Shqirat, Bethlehem University, Coordinator

Prof. Moein Kanaan, Bethlehem University

Dr. Hashem Shahin, Bethlehem University

Mr. Nader Hazboun, Bethlehem University

Dr. Yaqoub AShab, Palestine Polytechnic University, PFMR board member.

Scientific Committee

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