

## Current Event

### Research for MERS

King AbdulAziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) supports research on MERS-CoV.

## Editorial Notes

Since 2012, an increasing number of publications have been observed over the years and across the world. Up to 2015, over 800 publications about MERS were published and Saudi Arabia comes second in the number of publications (Table 1).

Research plays an essential role in facing the threat of emerging infectious diseases including MERS. It is necessary to investigate more about MERS by funding and supporting scientific medical research. This is translated in action with a joint cooperation between KACST, Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture (MEWA).

The Research Advisory Board (RAB) of the Command and Control Center (CCC) has been established by a ministerial decree on 26 March 2015. It is composed of 13 members from 9 national institutions and the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The national institutions include: National Guards, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, King AbdulAziz Medical City, MEWA, Ministry of Interior, and MoH, King Saud University, and the private sector. The committee can make use of appropriate expertise within and outside the ministries. The RAB is responsible for setting research priorities, developing the guiding principle, policies and strategies for promoting research in epidemic prone diseases and other public health emergencies; especially, on MERS.

The RAB encourages researchers on

Table 1: Scientific production on MERS-CoV research at Scopus (up to Dec 31, 2015)

Standard Competition Ranking	Countries/territories	No. of publications	h-index	Publications with international collaboration
1st	United States	319 (36.1%)	32	168 (52.7%)
2nd	Saudi Arabia	113 (12.8%)	26	76 (67.3%)
3rd	China	103 (11.7%)	19	63 (61.2%)
4th	United Kingdom	93 (10.5%)	22	66 (71%)
5th	Hong Kong	71 (8%)	18	47 (66.2%)
6th	Germany	68 (7.7%)	21	47 (69.1%)
7th	Netherlands	55 (6.2%)	21	40 (72.7%)
8th	South Korea	39 (4.4%)	4	4 (10.3%)
9th	France	37 (4.2%)	10	17 (45.9%)
10th	Australia	27 (3.1%)	6	13 (48.1%)

Source: Zyoud SH. Global research trends of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus: a bibliometric analysis. BMC Infect Dis. 2016 Jun 7;16(1):255.

### Cases of MERS-CoV: International Week (IW) No. 28: 10 – 16 July 2016

Total	2
Symptomatic (S)	2
Asymptomatic (AS)	0
Healthcare worker (S)	0
Healthcare Worker (AS)	0

different disciplines to submit proposals for funding. The RAB has already signed an agreement with KACST to support research on MERS. Reasonable funds were made available for young researchers through small research grants.

All research proposals were considered for funding based on the importance of the research question, study design, feasibility and other ethical considerations. So far, the RAB reviewed all the recommendations and guidelines of MERS including case definition and infection prevention and control, held a conference on vaccines (monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies) and therapeutics.

*Errors using inadequate data are much less than those using no data at all.*

*Charles Babbage*

## Recent Publications:

Arabi YM, Al-Enezi F, Longuere KS, Balkhy HH, Al-Sultan M, Al-Omari A, Al-Hameed FM, Carson G, Shindo N, Fowler R. Feasibility of a randomized controlled trial to assess treatment of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection in Saudi Arabia: a survey of physicians. BMC Anesthesiol. 2016 Jul 12;16(1):36. doi: 10.1186/s12871-016-0198-x.

## MERS-CoV in KSA 2016\*

Region	Case	Primary	Secondary	U.C.
Riyadh (1)	67	27	38	2
Qassim	36	10	23	3
Najran (1)	10	8	1	1
Jeddah	9	6	2	1
Hail	7	6	0	1
Taif	6	5	1	0
Asir	5	4	1	0
Al-Ahsaa	4	4	0	0
Eastern Region	4	4	0	0
Madinah	3	3	0	0
Al-Baha	2	1	0	1
Bisha	1	1	0	0
Tabuk	1	1	0	0
Makkah	0	0	0	0
Al-Joaf	0	0	0	0
Jazan	0	0	0	0
Northern Borders	0	0	0	0
Qunfotha	0	0	0	0
Hafr Al-Batin	0	0	0	0
Qurayyat	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>9</b>

Case: Confirmed Symptomatic. U.C.: Unclassified cases

\*Period: Form 3 Jan to 16 July 2016

Regions with new cases of this week are highlighted in yellow.