AL AZHAR
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Research plan

2009 – 2012

AL AZHAR MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Faculty of Medicine, Al Azhar University as an academic organization, operating under laws and legalities that control the implemented system within, and has participated in inducing several development programs aims to meet the set international standards of higher education, in an attempt to participate in the formulation of the new development strategies in Egypt.
However, this must be done with reference to the standards and benchmarks that are carefully chosen by the higher educational institution in accordance with its mission.
The Faculty offers its educational, social and research services to more than 3200 students who receive their bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery. As well as granting M.D and Master Degrees in the different speciality and sub-speciality of medicine to more than 3100 students.

The faculty also conducts research and scientific studies in different branches of medical sciences.

In the light of the diversified system of educational, research, medical and public service programs and with the continuous increase in the number of beneficiaries from these programs, it became essential to perform a well-rounded, comprehensive study to:

- **Identify the facilities and the basic research methods which help offer programs that are in the aimed level of quality.**
- **Development of a research plan according to the research plan of AL AZHAR University.**
- **Implementation of research plan in different departments.**
- **Annual scientific report for national and international publications.**

Why do we conduct research ?
To acquire more knowledge of a field or to discover new methods.

Research Policies and Strategies
Strategic planning is an organization's process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy, including its capital and people. Various analysis techniques can be used in strategic planning, including SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) and PEST analysis (Political, Economic, Social, and Technological analysis).
The generation and transfer of knowledge are core activities at Al Azhar Medical School defining, informing and enhancing teaching at all levels .
We expect all of our full-time academic staff to have an active, contributory engagement with a community of practice, whether that be a traditional academic discipline or a professional grouping. Research is to be understood as original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding
Our Research and Knowledge Transfer Policies and Strategies are articulated in the following key documents:

- **Al Azhar Medical School Action Plan 2009 – 2012.**
- **The Research Strategic Plan 2009 –2012.**
- **The Research Ethics Policy.**

- **Al Azhar Medical School Research And Knowledge Transfer Ethics Policy.**

Methodologies for research strategies:

There are many approaches to strategic planning but typically a Draw-See-Think approach was used:

- **Draw - what is the ideal image or the desired end state ?**
- **See - what is today's situation? What is the gap from ideal and why ?**
- **Think - what specific actions must be taken to close the gap between today's situation and the ideal state ?And Plan - what resources are required to execute the activities ?**

AL AZHAR MEDICAL SCHOOL
Strategies for Research and Education

The Board Of Al Azhar Medical School has established strategies for research and education designed to make our Medical school more competitive within research. Five profile areas and five areas of priority have been identified.

The Faculty, has put research and education strategies for the period 2009 to 2012. In the strategies, a number of profile areas which the faculty of medicine, Al Azhar University wants to give priority to have been identified within research and education.

Particular emphasis is to be given to five profile areas which cross faculty boundaries:

1. **Health.**
2. **Environment (environmental influences on health).**
3. **Medical Education, knowledge formation and learning.**
4. **Medical technology.**
5. **Culture and health, Health sector reform and Art for health.**

Priority research areas

We offer a wide range of research opportunities, which are listed below.

According to the strategies, the following research areas are also to be given priority. The first one area are already strong field of research with a long tradition and excellent quality. The remaining four have the prerequisites to develop into strong areas.

I. Health:

(1) Patient-centred research on:

- **Communicable diseases (schistosomiasis, hepatitis (C & B), tuberculosis, persistent diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections).**
- **Chronic noncommunicable diseases (including mental ill health & psychiatric disorders) principally CVDs, Diabetes, Cancers (breast, liver, bladder & lymph node), chronic respiratory diseases (especially asthma), psychiatric morbidities in Egyptian communities and diseases causing blindness.**
- **Risk factors for noncommunicable diseases (high blood pressure, raised cholesterol, tobacco use, obesity (overweight) and lifestyle-associated disorders (nutrition and micronutrient deficiency in women and young children, smoking, substance abuse, lack of exercise, etc).**
- **Medical and Surgical emergiencies.**

- **Maternal and child health, Reproductive health, Women's health and Family planning (Contraception), Safe motherhood and health of the elderly.**

II. Enviromental Health:

- **Pollution (e.g: sewerage and sanitation, Chemical and Microbiological air pollutants.**
- **Injury prevention and control.**

III. Medical Education and EBM.

IV. Medical Technology (in Health & Medical Education) including the effective Use of Educational Technology in Medical Education and posits research questions on the appropriate role and application of these technologies.

V. Culture and health, Health sector reform and Art for health.

<u>Research methods</u>

The goal of the research process is to produce new knowledge, which takes three main forms :

- **Exploratory research, which structures and identifies new problems.**
- **Constructive research, which develops solutions to a problem.**
- **Empirical research, which tests the feasibility of a solution using empirical evidence.**

<u>Researches should be:</u>

- **Community oriented.**
- **Adhere to the key principles Research Ethics Framework (Islamic, national and international framwork)**
- **Allow maximum benefit from the available resources.**
- **Integrated (inter-departmental and multicentral).**
- **Non replicative study.**

<u>Research methods used include:</u>

Epidemiological research.
Case control study.
Experiments.
Statistical analysis and surveys……etc.

Definitions
'Research and Knowledge Transfer Ethics' refers to the moral principles guiding the activity from its inception through to completion and publication of results and beyond.

Al Azhar Medical School
Ethical Guidelines

1. **Islamic code of medical ethics.**
2. **The Islamic Document of , Medical and Health Ethics , 1981 , 2002**
3. **Al Azhar Medical School, Research And Knowledge Transfer Ethics Policy.**
4. **Ethical guidelines for human reproduction research in the muslim world, International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, Al Azhar University, Cairo 1992.**
5. **Egyptian medical syndicate ethical guidelines.**
6. **International conference on Islamic medicine, Kuwait 1981.**
7. **World Medical Association Declaration Of Helsinki, Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Adopted by the 18th WMA General Assembly, Helsinki, Finland, June 1964, and amended by the 29th WMA General Assembly, Tokyo, Japan, October 1975, 35th WMA General Assembly, Venice, Italy, October 1983, 41st WMA General Assembly, Hong Kong, September 1989, 48th WMA General Assembly, Somerset West, Republic of South Africa, October 1996 and the 52nd WMA General Assembly, Edinburgh, Scotland, October 2000, Note of Clarification on Paragraph 29 added by the WMA General Assembly, Washington 2002, Note of Clarification on Paragraph 30 added by the WMA General Assembly, Tokyo 2004.**
8. **The Declaration of Inuyama, Human Genome Mapping Genetic Screening & Gene Therapy (CIOMS, WHO, Japan 1990).**
9. **CIOMS (Council for International Organisations of Medical Sciences) and (WHO) World Health Organisation (1993), "International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects". Proposed Guidelines, 1983. Revised and adopted, 1992, Geneva.**
10. **Consultative Document on Ethical Guidelines on Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects". (Draft). New Delhi: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 1997.**
11. **World Medical Association (WMA):Medical Ethics Manual -Ethics and Medical Research, 2005.**
12. **South African Medical Research Council, 2004, Use of Animals in Research and Training.**
13. **Animal Ethics Screening Committee,CIOMS 1985.**
14. **National Committee for Ethics in Social Science Research in Health (NCESSRH), 2005.**