



جامعة الشارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

NEWSLETTER

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DEAN'S MESSAGE OF THE MONTH



The last month has been very busy at the college with numerous events that took place as well as meetings, faculty development workshops, and seminars. Under the patronage and presence of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah, and Founder of the University of Sharjah, Dr. Philip Salem visited our campus and gave a talk on the latest cancer treatments. We were also visited by delegates from McGill to discuss the potential pathways in Canada for our graduates as well as collaboration opportunities.

Our students have been busy, not only with studying for upcoming major exams such as the exit exam and the final MBBS exam, but also with events and extracurricular activities both in and out of the university. I would like to congratulate our faculty and students on all their wonderful achievements. They continuously make me and our college proud.

COLLEGE NEWS

Cancer Treatment Lecture



Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed AL Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah, and Founder of the University of Sharjah, a special lecture by Dr. Philip Salem titled “The Latest Treatments for Cancer” was conducted on 4th February 2023 at the medical campus. The lecture presented the breakthrough cancer treatment approach, immune checkpoint therapy (ICT), and its promising success rates to a number of university leaders, deans of medical and health sciences, and faculty members.



EmiratesMED Signing Ceremony



The University of Sharjah’s College of Medicine recently joined EmiratesMEDs in a signing ceremony attended by Prof. Eman Abu-Gharbieh in lieu of Prof. Qutayba Hamid. EmiratesMEDs is a national competency framework for medical graduates in the UAE established by the Dean of Medical Schools in collaboration with the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) and under the auspices of the National Institute for Health Specialties (NIHS). Faculty members of the College of Medicine Dr. Emad Nosair and Dr. Mohamed Taha took part in the preparation and launch of the project as members of the scientific committee. It is strongly believed that this framework has the potential to enhance the quality of medical education in the UAE and positively impact healthcare delivery and patient care.



MOU with University Hospital Sharjah



On 21st February 2023, His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Ahmed Al-Qassimi, Deputy Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah and Deputy Chairman of The Executive Council, witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between His Excellency Dr. Abdelaziz Al-Mheiri, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University Hospital, and Prof. Hamid Al-Naimiy, Chancellor of the University of Sharjah, pledging shared advancements in the areas of medicine, academics, and public health between the two institutions. The agreement, which would continue for the next 3 years, covers greater academic opportunities for medical and health science students in terms of bedside teaching, supervision, and feedback from medical experts and instructors with the goal to graduate a generation of competent, excellent doctors and health professionals.



MOU with Dubai Academic Health Corporation



In an effort to solidify the role of students in the healthcare sector, the College of Medicine signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dubai Academic Health Corporation, expanding the opportunity for students to find innovative solutions for challenges they may encounter throughout their careers. This collaboration also aims at exchanging knowledge through research projects and programs.



Biostatistics Workshop



The Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit, in association with The Center for Continuing Education, had a successful "Hands-on Data Analysis using SPSS" workshop held on 10th and 11th February 2023. Led by Prof. Basema Saddik and Dr. Amal Hussein, the workshop aimed to introduce the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program through teaching advanced statistical concepts to attendees.

The Center for Continuing Education and Professional Development in association with the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit announce the workshop

Hands-on Data Analysis using SPSS Workshop

10th - 11th, February 2023
7 CME Hours
From 9 am to 4 pm
Training Language English

Targets participants:
Physicians, pharmacists, nurses, researchers, public health professionals and students with basic to intermediate knowledge of SPSS.

Topics include:
Descriptive statistics: Normality, Hypothesis testing, T-test, Anova, Chi-square, correlation, and simple regression.

Venue and contact:
Computer Lab 1, College of Medicine | University of Sharjah | Phone: 065057000
WhatsApp: 0501013922 | Email: a.hussein@sharjah.ac.ae | Visit our Website

For registration and payment Click here
*Please note that fees are 400 OMR with VAT.

McGill University Meeting



The University of Sharjah organized a hybrid session hosting representatives from the Canadian McGill University on 30th January 2023. The meeting took place in the medical campus, and provided students interested in elective training, residency, and postgraduate programs in McGill University a more informative and thus clearer vision of the process and path ahead.



Kazakhstan Medical Colleges Visit



In an exciting new venture, the Medical Colleges at the University of Sharjah received an international delegation from Kazakhstan representing 19 medical colleges with the intention to discuss and identify several areas of collaboration in the fields of research and academics. The meeting took place on 8th February 2023 and the delegation was met by Prof. Qutayba Hamid and the coordinator of the visit, Dr. Bashair Mussa.



University of Alberta Collaboration

On 7th February 2023, the College of Medicine at the University of Sharjah, represented by Prof. Qutayba Hamid, and the University of Alberta of Canada, represented by Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn, signed a Memorandum of Understanding recognizing the mutual benefits to be gained through a cooperative program promoting scholarly activities and establishing the framework through which the two institutions can foster and develop a collaborative relationship.



Iraqi Delegation to UOS

An Iraqi delegation of gifted students visited the University of Sharjah as part of their tour of the United Arab Emirates' higher education institutions. The delegation was met by the university's Chancellor, Prof. Hamid Al-Naimiy, who introduced the university's colleges and research programs and prepared an educational visit to the Sharjah Academy of Astronomy, Space Sciences & Technology.



FACULTY NEWS

AAU International Conference on Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences

Prof. Eman Abu Gharbieh gave a talk titled "The Experience of Patients Diagnosed with COVID-19 Infection and the Role of the Pharmacist During Their Infection: A Case Study from the United Arab Emirates" at the AAU International Conference on Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences on 19th January 2023.



Debate at the APAA Conference 2023

Dr. Hamid Alhaj presented at the Advances in Psychiatry Across Ages Conference (APAA) held in Abu Dhabi from 28th to 29th January 2023. Dr. Hamid discussed the evidence-based research supporting his argument on why borderline personality and bipolar II should be viewed as two distinct disorders. His side of the debate won by an overwhelming majority of votes.



Sharjah TV Interview

On 31st January 2023, Prof. Rabih Halwani was interviewed by Sharjah TV, where he elucidated different programs and centers at the University of Sharjah. Prof. Halwani provided an overview of the establishment of the Research Institute for Medical and Health Sciences (RIMHS) and the institute's goals, objectives, and services. He also described the RIMHS's achievements and its diversified research areas.



Lecture at Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Dr. Balsam Qubais presented a lecture titled “Strengthening Your Immune System to Avoid Infectious Diseases” in cooperation with the Health Promotion Department in the Supreme Council for Family Affairs on 31st January 2023.



1st International Conference on Medical Sciences

Prof. Basema Saddik was invited as a keynote speaker at the 1st International Conference on Medical Sciences which was organized by the Iraq Medical Association from 8th to 9th February 2023, where she presented the topic “Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases in the Arab world”.



13th Emirates Diabetes and Endocrine Congress

Dr. Jalal Taneera received the 1st place prize for his oral presentation titled “FAM105A is a Novel Gene Down-regulated in Diabetic Human Islets and Involved in Pancreatic β -cell Function and Insulin Secretion”. This is his second year winning this prize at the Emirates Diabetes and Endocrine Congress, which was held from 11th to 13th February 2023.



Lecture at CHAMPS Dubai

Dr. Mode AL Ojaimi conducted a community awareness session about heart diseases in pediatric patients. This session was given at CHAMPS Dubai on 14th February 2023.



Sharqiya Kalba TV Interview

Dr. Hamid Alhaj was hosted by the Evening Talk program (Hadith Almasa') at Sharqiya Kalba TV to talk about major depression and its impact on the individual and society. He discussed different types of presentations for depression in children, adults, and the elderly, as well as the treatment and prevention of this disorder and how to improve the mental health of the public.



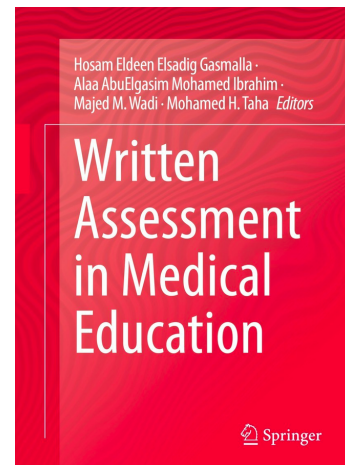
Medical Education Symposium

Dr. Mohamed Taha was a keynote speaker at the medical education symposium organized by Dubai Medical College for Girls where he talked about designing curricula for future doctors while focusing on contemporary issues and future perspectives. This symposium brought together some of the most prominent figures in the medical education field, including national, regional, and international keynote speakers, as well as deans of medical colleges in the UAE.



Faculty Book Publishing

Dr Mohamed Taha, along with his colleagues, has published a book titled "Written Assessment in Medical Education". It was published by Springer Nature with collaborators from Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, and Sudan. The book provides practical examples and materials for medical educators that could be used in workshops, professional development courses, and daily activities related to student assessment in medical education.



Health Magazine Interview

Dr. Rakhee Ramakrishnan was interviewed by a UAE-based health magazine about winning the AstraZeneca R&D Postdoctoral Challenge. She spoke in detail about how winning the challenge has been a beneficial experience for her. She also elaborated on her area of research and her interest in the relationship between airway diseases and mitochondrial dysfunction.



STUDENTS' NEWS

AMBOSS Dubai Meeting

Students and 'AMBOSSadors' representing the University of Sharjah's College of Medicine were invited to meet with the AMBOSS team based in Dubai. Held on 3rd February 2023, the teams discussed the efforts behind the application, provided feedback regarding its different features, and addressed its potential for the future. Year 5 students Balkis Zaitoun, Mohammad Ghath Al-Wawi, and Mohammad Mahfouz represented the college, along with the College of Medicine 2022 graduates and current interns, Hussain Aldaher and Noor Sakan.



'Bridges of Giving' Campaign

Students from the College of Medicine, in recognition of their duty to those in need, volunteered in the donation, packaging, and management of urgent relief packages for women and children affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The effort was part of a nationwide campaign to serve those in need.





6TH ANNUAL CLUBS EXHIBITION

The MSA participated in a welcoming club exhibition as a display of opportunity and intrigue for newly enrolled students looking ahead. Held on 7th February 2023, members measured students' blood pressure, heart rates, and conducted a fun Q&A to demonstrate the association's mission.



OPEN MIC 2023

With the return of Open Mic as a major event in the MSA's calendar, 400+ students, faculty, and staff from all colleges enjoyed a lovely evening filled with delight as performers showcased their talents that included singing, playing the piano, reciting poetry, and much more. Held on 22nd February 2023, it was a great night for all to remember.



THE COMMITTEES

THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE



MSA'S BOOK CORNER



The Community Committee, as part of an initiative by students, has established a book community and corner, where members can continuously donate, share, borrow, and enjoy books through a QR code scanning system. The initiative aims to allow students to benefit from useful casual reading to encourage good habits and hobbies in the community.



ART & BAKE SALE



With a soul of generosity and togetherness, the Community Committee hosted the year's first bake sale with a twist! The event included a display and auction of art pieces by independent local artists in the community as well as the best of goods made by College of Medicine students. The effort aimed at supporting growing artists and passionate bakers.



BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM

The Community Committee, with its continuous efforts in assisting those in need, provided opportunities for students in the College of Medicine to visit blood donation centers and support the UAE blood bank by donating their own blood!



THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

INITIATION OF MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Scientific Committee, as part of a collaborative project with faculty and student representatives from the College of Medicine, has established a Medical Student Research Program (MSRP) as a permanent subcommittee. Through frequent journal club sessions and workshop programs offered by faculty throughout the semester, students now have the opportunity to work with professors on extracurricular research projects and learn more about their role in building knowledge for the future.



THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

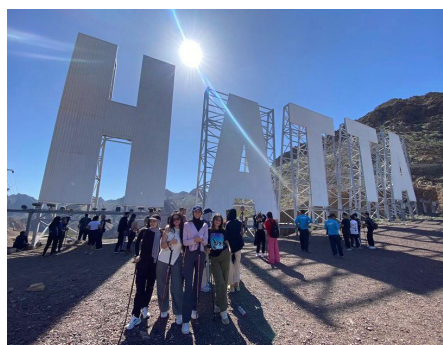
BEAT THE HEAT

As the largest event of the academic year so far, the Social Committee hosted an outstanding sports-style event on 1st February 2023, open to the medical colleges. By hosting tournaments in basketball, football, relay races, volleyball, and other sports, students were able to compete for trophies, medals, and certificates. It was a memorable evening for all!



HATTA TRIP

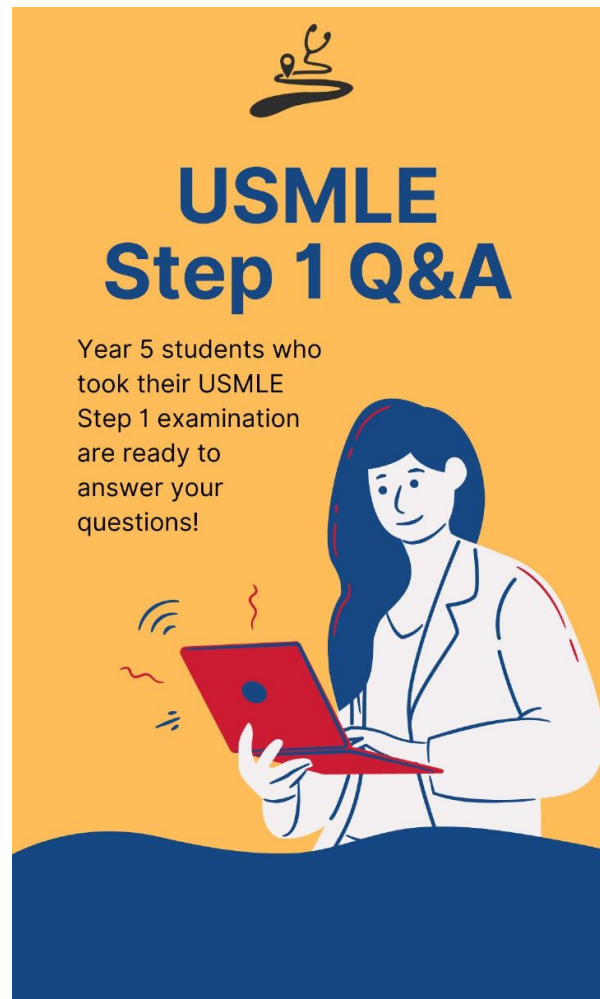
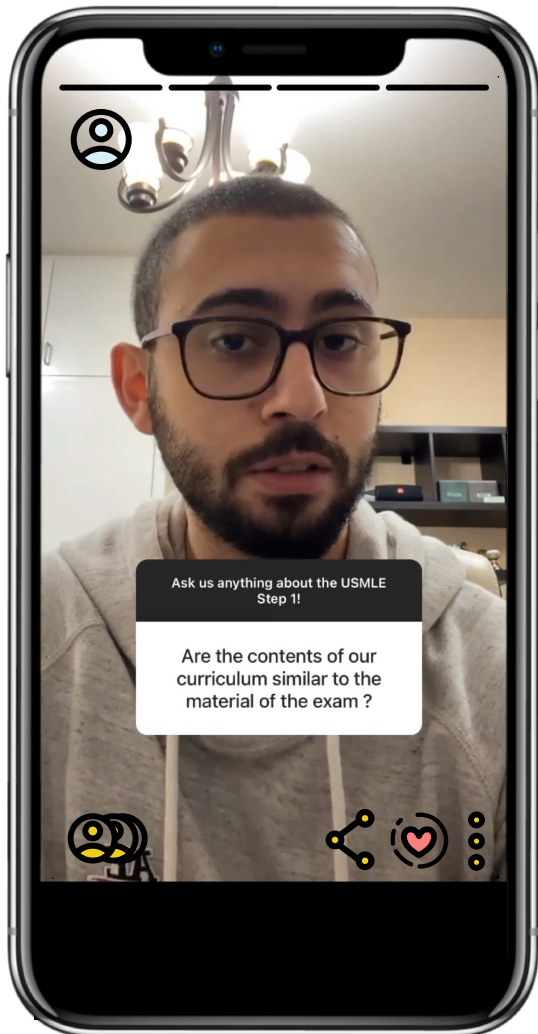
The Social Committee organized a trip for 200 students to join and visit Hatta in the early morning of 12th February 2023, where they set out to climb through a difficult mountain hiking trail. The successful adventure was followed by an evening in Al Wadi Park where members enjoyed a barbecue.





USMLE STEP 1 Q&A

On 29th January 2023, the PAC Road to Residency Instagram page hosted a Q&A session about Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE). Year 5 students who completed the exam answered various questions and provided inquiring students with valuable first-hand advice. Details on the examination format and application process were provided, combined with study resource recommendations and tips for effective exam preparation.



Med. olution

BY : RAMA QADRI

REPLICATION CRISIS

The 21st century is an age of technological and scientific evolution, defined by the prolific advancements in fields of medicine, psychology, engineering, and thousands of other arenas of scientific disciplines that are constantly emerging. No longer is science the nobleman's game, research has become the staple of every student in a time of unprecedented college education rates. Although the accessibility of science and academia is to be commended, the phrase "quantity over quality" reigns in this domain as research studies are published at an exponential rate with a subsequent loss in excellence.

This phenomenon was brought to light in the stunning study by Brian Novek and his team of researchers in 2015, in which he had one question: do published experiments hold up under scrutiny? And what better scrutiny than to attempt to replicate the results in a separate, unbiased, and totally clear-eyed laboratory?

Novek and his colleagues set out to reproduce 100 psychological experiments performed and published in 2008. 97 of these studies had yielded significant results originally, but reproduction brought to light the failings in many of them: only 36% produced statistically significant findings upon replication, and many studies failed to reach the necessary sample size to achieve accurate results that could be generalized to the public. These findings are despite Novek's team ensuring the sure of use the same materials as the original researchers and reviewed the research process with them beforehand.

The conclusion of the study? The current scientific process produces an overwhelming number of studies that cannot be replicated and are unreliable. Very much dangerous in a field where guidelines and standardization of care are driven empirically. Some speculate it's part of the current culture to publish at all costs, or the overwhelming bias to publish positive, or statistically significant research. Others argue that the P-value, a probability value that researchers rely on to determine statistical significance, is not enough of an indicator of conclusive findings, as many researchers are to use it alone in data analysis.

However, we would be remiss in overlooking the other side of the debate. Unreproducible is not synonymous with false positive, as reproduction is based on the accurate imitation of the original study, a feat that is impossible to perform due to human error. This excludes other causes such as authors restricting their methodology or the hidden complexity of investigation that is not appreciated by the reproduced study.

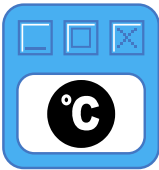
In the investigators' own words: "Innovation points out paths that are possible; replication points out paths that are likely; progress relies on both." Replication of research studies is the only way by which we can have reliable, conclusive evidence that may be used to influence clinical judgement, and the overwhelming number of novel research must be countered with the steady hand of replication to battle the crisis.

References:

Nosek, B. A., Cohoon, J., Kidwell, M., & Spies, J. R. (2016). Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science. *Science*. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/447b3>
 Replication studies hold the key to generalization. (2022). *Nature Communications*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-34748-x>

Potential Differential

A Blind Labor



By : Leena Amir

The miracle of life is a wonderful one that never fails to astound all those who witness it. Unfortunately, it often comes with unforeseen complications despite medical advances...

LJ is a 25-year-old primigravida- at 38 weeks who presented to the emergency with labor pains. LJ and her husband were travel enthusiasts- wanting to visit every country they possibly could- and when she found out that she was pregnant, she ensured that it would not be an obstacle on her path to discover as many cities as possible. Unfortunately, this meant that LJ was not always up to date with her antenatal checkups. Last week, when she was enjoying the tropical islands, she felt a sharp stabbing pain on her lower abdomen which she thought might have been a contraction, so she immediately rushed to the hospital where they attached a monitoring device to her abdomen to measure contractions and fetal heart rate. She was assured that she was just experiencing normal "Braxton-Hicks" contractions and was not in labor. They also checked her blood work as she always carried her file around with her and they noticed that she had not done an oral glucose tolerance test. When doing a bedside ultrasound, it was revealed that her baby was a couple of weeks larger than its expected size. Despite medical advice, LJ refused admission to the hospital and stated that she wanted to deliver her baby back home where her mother resides- however the earliest ticket was 6 days away.

The week passes and LJ is now at the airport being picked up by her family. As they greet each other they make a note to visit the nearest hospital tomorrow morning in order to schedule LJ for delivery. However, that same night she is woken up by labor pains. An ambulance is called, and she was brought to the emergency labor room where we are now. Doctors determine that she is now during her active stage of labor and is already 8 cms dilated, and although the baby is larger than expected, it has a cephalic presentation so LJ will be able to have a normal natural delivery. When she is fully dilated, she struggles with pushing and after great efforts, the head finally emerges. In an attempt to help her, the doctor then tries to pull down sharply to deliver the shoulders- however she is met with resistance. After various obstetric maneuvers, the baby is finally delivered at a weight of 4.6kgs but unfortunately, not without complications.

Judging from the peculiar manner in which the baby's arm is adducted and pronated, it is clear that the brachial plexus have been injured. Fortunately, the injury was not severe so physiotherapy was indicated for the baby's condition. LJ was also educated on the importance of antenatal care and the dangers of irregular follow-ups as this case could have been easily prevented had she taken the required measures.

What type of injury occurred to the baby and why did it happen?

Answer the questions and check if you are right by filling out the form! [CLICK HERE](#)

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

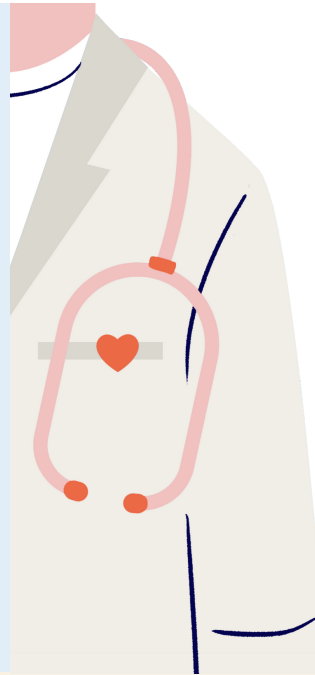
For all the experiences you have as a medical student, it's no surprise to know you'll be pushed out of your comfort zone. One day, my senior doctor decided it was a good idea to take history from a woman... in labor.

For obvious reasons, I had no choice but to do so. As I begin to introduce myself, she sternly states that she will not be answering questions during her frequent contractions. Not a minute goes by as I try to ask a question, she screams in pain, then answers.

"So uh, do you smoke?"

Screams during contractions... "No, my dear, I don't."

This painstaking process continues repeatedly as everyone helping joins in wondering why I am even there.



As males in the OB/GYN rotation, we expect to get kicked out when a patient arrives, so it comes as no surprise that we spend most of our time in the waiting area with nothing to do. Maybe a card game or two?

An understanding nurse came by to tell us we might want to scrub in for a cool robotics surgery in the OT. My friend and I went in with absolutely no clue what was happening, or what the surgery was. Dandelions flowing with the breeze, we notice that nothing here is related to Gynecology, the patient is a male!

An hour in, we realize we kind of want to know what's happening...

"Hi doctor, uhm, what surgery is this?"

Silence

"Hahaha, wait... who are you?"



STUDENTS' CORNER



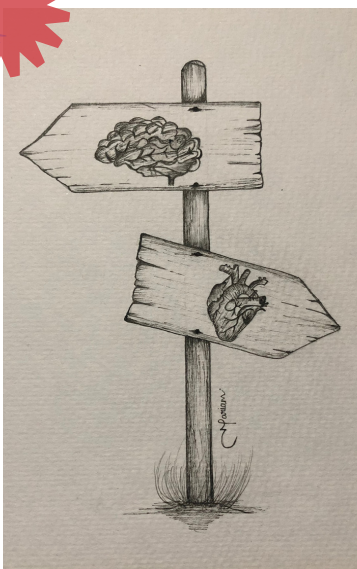
Nothing feels better than this.

Afra Alblooshi
Foundation Year



Beauty of sunset

Rawan Hany Elbarbary
Foundation Year



Follow your heart but please take your brain with you.

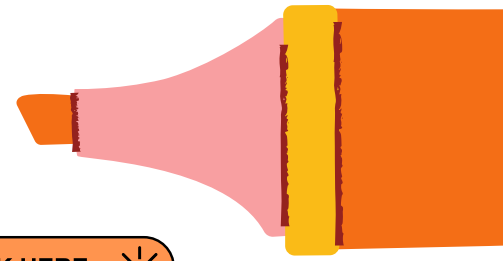
Mariam Wehbe
Year 1



There's a masterpiece in every place we go, we just have to open our eyes to it. From meanings in every artwork to pictures that tell a story.

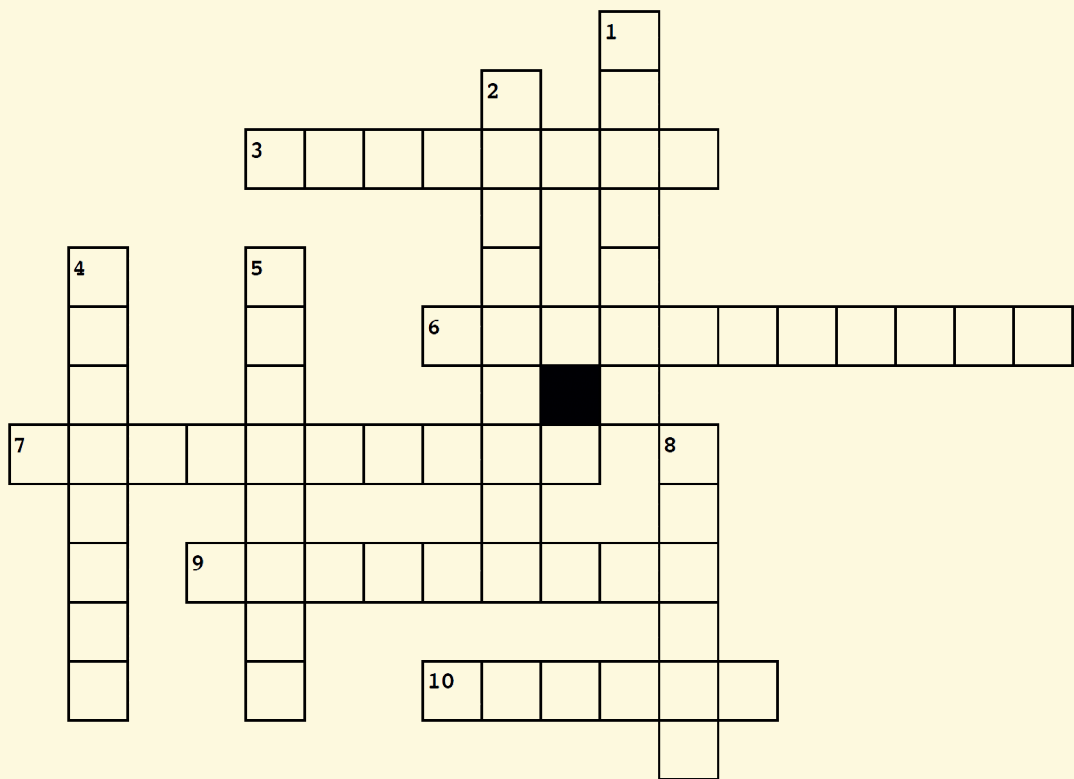
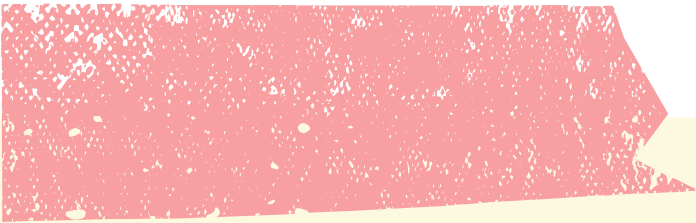
Hind Al Khalaf
Year 1

Cross Examination



Click on the icon to access an interactive version of the crossword. You can type in your answers and it will check if they are correct. Good luck!

[CLICK HERE](#)



[ANSWER KEY](#)

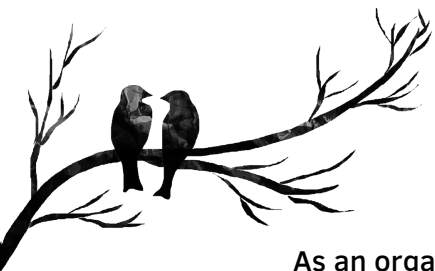
Across

- 3. Transdermal patches for chronic pain
- 6. Pain receptors
- 7. Main flexor of the elbow
- 9. Type of wrist joint
- 10. Eight bones in the hand

Down

- 1. Hidden or sequestered epitope
- 2. Longest muscle in human body
- 4. Hormone that suppress bone resorption
- 5. Tabes dorsalis is caused by
- 8. Nerve affected in ape hand deformity

STUDENT'S LETTERBOX



LIMITED HORIZONS

As an organism known for flight, one of the biggest reasons our whole species envy human beings is their proficiency in articulating their feelings using words. But today, the scene I see unfolding before my eyes has left me perplexed because no number of words or intensity of noise used by them is adequate to save them from nature's anger.

I've flown across these streets for as long as I've lived, and there is a familiarity I've developed towards them, but all of that is gone today because these alleys, that once used to be adorned with the joyful noises of children running around and their families telling them to be careful, is now nothing but rubble and debris. As I stand atop a building that has managed to survive, I can see that the old woman who never failed to put grains for me on her balcony is now standing on ruins with her hands clasped and her head raised towards the sky and clouds amongst whom I fly every day. She prays for the family that is now nowhere to be found and hopes they were as fortunate as her to survive and outlive this. There are kids standing here and there with tears in their eyes because their parents aren't in sight, and there is no one around to hold their hand and convince them that everything will be alright.

I see people turning their backs and walking away from the apartment or area that they have considered home all their lives with quite literally nothing but the resilience and profound hope that The Almighty will give them better than what was taken away from them. Gratitude fills me as I realize how blessed I am to have the ability to pick up pieces of my life and move them elsewhere in a matter of hours. With no more strength left in my heart to watch this gut-wrenching scene, I spread my wings and soar towards the sky and hope that these people find stability in their homes, lives, land, and that the smiles on their faces return once again.



RASHIDA DHILAWALA
YEAR 2

TOGETHER FOR THE TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA CRISIS

قال رسول الله ﷺ: مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادُّهِمْ وَتَرَاحُمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطِفِهِمْ، مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهْرِ وَالْحُمَّى.

THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH (PBUH) SAID, "THE BELIEVERS IN THEIR MUTUAL KINDNESS, COMPASSION AND SYMPATHY ARE JUST LIKE ONE BODY. WHEN ONE OF THE LIMBS SUFFERS, THE WHOLE BODY RESPONDS TO IT WITH WAKEFULNESS AND FEVER."

[صحيح]- [أخرجه البخاري (601)، ومسلم (2586) واللفظ له]

