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[Cancer - An Emerging Public Health Issue in Middle Eastern Countries: Are we really prepared for the Future?](#)

Published 09/1/2008

CALL FOR RESEARCH PAPERS:

American J. of Immunology is sponsoring a Special Issue On "Cancer - An Emerging Public Health Issue in Middle Eastern Countries: Are we really prepared for the Future?"

Guest Editor:

Prof. Michael Silbermann
Executive Director
Middle East Cancer Consortium

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. That is not the case in developing countries. However, with the increase in life expectancy in the latter countries, the incidence of cancer is also increasing and becoming a genuine problem to the health systems as well as to the populations at large. In recent years it has become imperative that as important as the number of people who die from cancer is the number of people who live with it. With early diagnosis and modern advances in cancer treatment more and more people are conquering the disease and living longer, better lives. Hence, with the downward trend in mortality rates, an increased emphasis is given in survivorship research, quality of life, and the delivery of palliative care.

The Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC) (www.mecc.cancer.gov) was established in 1996, and its first regional project involved cancer registries that documented not only the incidence of various cancers, but also the stage of the disease at diagnosis. MECC's second regional project revolves around the response to this information aimed at building capacity for palliative care in the region. To do so effectively, it is necessary to establish a baseline of information on palliative care services in the jurisdictions covered by MECC and to examine barriers to delivery of palliative care that might exist. Toward this end the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI), a major sponsor of MECC, commissioned the International Observatory on End-of-Life (based at Lancaster University, UK) to conduct a study that has been recently published^[1]. It became clearly evident that the need exists to expand and improve palliative care services for patients suffering from physical as well as psychosocial and spiritual distress as a result of a cancer diagnosis. MECC has already begun to address the issue of palliative care by organizing several regional training and educational activities aimed at capacity-building^[2,3]. Moreover, MECC seeks to build a consensus among its members to establish standards for palliative care services in the region. This sort of consensus building has been previously utilized within MECC to develop standards for cancer registry

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(www.mecc.cancer.gov/standards.html) that have enabled comparisons of cancer incidence rates in the region as detailed in a monograph published by NCI.^[4]

The goal of the proposed Special Issue is to provide an updated epidemiological review of the current status of cancer in Middle Eastern countries, and to discuss the needed treatment modalities and if the region is ready to face this challenge. We hope that through this publication we will succeed in increasing the awareness of both the respective health authorities as well as the caregivers.

The goal of measurably improving the quality of life for people with cancer, their loved ones, and the caregivers is increasingly important to MECC. Our aims in the coming year's priorities acknowledge that we must sensitively address the importance of comforting patients and families throughout the course of the disease. Assuring quality care also for those facing the end of life – this is a real challenge, and MECC wishes to meet that challenge via increasing information and awareness among all those involved, both patients and professionals.

We do hope that bringing out this Special Issue will assist in promoting these aims as we believe that organizations like MECC should take the lead in guiding others in the private, public and non-profit sectors to commit to making palliative care a priority. This includes carrying out research, training professionals to provide palliative care, provide accurate and complete information to the public, and advocating for changes in policies related to palliative care at all health care levels: primary, secondary and tertiary.

Societies and cultures in the Middle East find it difficult to talk about illness, dying and death. In part, our silence has fostered an information void that prevents people with cancer from knowing about and accessing the resources they need as they face the last years, months and days of their lives. Palliative care is not just about end-of-life care; rather, palliative care is about quality cancer care throughout all stages of the illness. It is imperative that both the public and the professional community need to be better educated about how to improve patient and physician communication, how to manage symptoms, and how to access and provide psychological support. It is, therefore, the goal of any new publication in this discipline to encourage people to communicate about these issues, and to provide them with the support and information they need to begin the conversation. We believe that the Special Issue is just one example of many ways MECC is striving to fulfill its mission in the Middle East: to diminish suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

List of topics to be covered but not limited to:

- Overviews of the current status of cancer incidence and treatment facilities (hospital, hospice, home care) in: Turkey, Egypt, The Palestinian Authority and Saudi Arabia
- Palliative care services in Jordan, Israel and Cyprus
- Developing of training programs to caregivers in the Middle East
- Future perspectives for cancer management in Middle Eastern countries

Paper Submissions:

We solicit papers with a maximum of 10 pages, containing new material. Submissions must be in English, must be original, and must not have been submitted for publication elsewhere. Submissions should be made through "[Paper Less Submission](#)".

The authors shortlisted for the best-research-paper will be invited to be a Guest Editor for a special issue to be published in *American J. of Immunology* for fast-track publication. When preparing the submissions please follow [Instructions to Authors](#) and submit final paper in MS Word format.

Important Dates:

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2009

First round of review : April 30, 2009

Tentative publication date : July 30, 2009

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[Special Issue On "The Mechanisms Of Cancer Tolerance And Cancer Gene Therapy"](#)

Published 08/12/2008

[CALL FOR RESEARCH PAPERS](#) for a Special Issue On" Mechanisms of Cancer Tolerance and Cancer Gene Therapy"

Guest Editor:

Dr. Yuekang Xu

Division of Immunology, The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, 1G Royal Parade, Parkville, VIC 3050, Australia

Sponsored By: [American Journal of Immunology](#)

Results from both animal models and human cancer patients indicate that a functional cancer immunosurveillance exists in vivo as tumor suppressor. Initiation of an anti-tumor immune response occurs when the immune system becomes alerted to the presence of the growing tumor, which may result in tumor elimination. Indeed, immunotherapy has been demonstrated to be of great potential for cancer treatment. The advantages of this approach lie in its high specificity and low toxicity compares with the traditional cancer treatments such as radiotherapy and chemotherapy. However, growing out of self-tissues, tumor expresses self-antigen on its surface and lacks of specific signals to alert the immune system for potential danger. Therefore, cancer tolerance has been identified as the greatest obstacle to successful translation of this powerful approach into clinics. The focus of this special issue is on Cancer Tolerance and Cancer Gene Therapy. It covers a broad range of experimental and theoretical studies regarding delineating the mechanisms of cancer tolerance and the development of effective cancer gene therapies.

Topics in this issue include, but are not limited to:

- Cancer tolerance
- Cancer gene therapy
- Cancer immunology
- Immunopharmacology
- Characterization of novel functional genes in lymphocytes
- Molecular genetics of cancer

Paper Submissions:

We solicit papers with a maximum of 10 pages, containing new material. Submissions must be in English, must be original, and must not have been submitted for publication elsewhere. Submissions should be made through "[Paper Less Submission](#)".

The authors shortlisted for the best-research-paper will be invited to be a Guest Editor for a special issue to be published in American J. of Immunology for fast-track publication. When preparing the submissions please follow [Instructions to Authors](#) and submit final paper in MS Word format.

Important Dates:

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2009

First round of review : April 30, 2009

Tentative publication date : July 30, 2009

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[Call for Research Papers on Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering: Recent Developments](#)

Published 08/10/2008

Sponsored by [American J. of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#)

Guest Editor:

Dr. Deepankar Choudhury

Department of Civil Engineering

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, India

This special issue aims to publish original research articles and technical notes detailing the recent developments in the area of earthquake geotechnical engineering. Need for further research in this area by assembling the latest developments around the world is well known, as the devastating effects of earthquakes on geotechnical structures like foundations, retaining wall, anchors, slopes, dams, reinforced soil-wall etc. are very common even with the latest technical developments in the design and construction. Also the computations of liquefaction potential, cyclic mobility, soil amplification, site characterization are necessary to understand

the basic geotechnical problems subjected to earthquake forces. Hence the list of the topics to be covered in this special issue are given below:

- Earthquake resistant design of geotechnical structures
- Soil characterization subjected to earthquake loading
- Liquefaction, cyclic mobility
- Experimental methods on earthquake geotechnical engineering
- Numerical and analytical methods dealing with earthquake geotechnical engineering
- Codal provisions on earthquake geotechnical engineering
- Case-history of geotechnical failures due to earthquake

Paper Submissions:

We solicit papers with a maximum of 10 pages, containing new material. Submissions must be in English, must be original, and must not have been submitted for publication elsewhere. Submissions should be made through "[Online Submission](#)".

The authors shortlisted for the best-research-paper will be invited to be a Guest Editor for a special issue to be published in American J. of Engineering and Applied Sciences for fast-track publication. When preparing the submissions please follow [Instructions to Authors](#) and submit final paper in MS Word format.

Important Dates:

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2009

First round of review : April 30, 2009

Tentative publication date : July 30, 2009

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Special Issue on Mechanism and Treatment in Autoimmunity

Published 08/9/2008

Guest Editor:

Tzang, Bor-Show

Institute of Biochemistry and Biotechnology,
Chung Shan Medical University, Taiwan

American Journal of Immunology invites researchers to present their original results to address Mechanism and Treatment in Autoimmunity. This issue intends to publish the latest international advances in experimental and clinical research on autoimmunity including both in vitro and in vivo studies.

Major topics of interest include but are not limited to the following:

- Cell, animal or clinical studies on mechanisms/pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases
- The development of immunologically based assays and their application to autoimmune disorders
- Studies on the nature and function of drug or dietary supplement in autoimmune disorders
- Agents or substances that activate genes or modify transcription and translation within the autoimmune responses/reactions

We encourage submission of original high quality papers (10-12 pages) with contributions not published or not currently submitted for consideration to another journal or conference. All articles will be reviewed by editorial board.

Paper Submission:

All submissions must be either in MS word or Core Word format. For a full Guide for Authors, please [click here](#)

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Important Dates:

Submission deadline: October 31, 2008

Notification of acceptance: November 01, 2008

Final version due: November 01, 2008

Expected date of publication: November 15, 2008

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Call for Papers - Asian Journal of Poultry Science

Published 12/9/2007

Asian Journal of Poultry Science provides authoritative literature in the field of

poultry science and an international forum for the exchange and dissemination of information including research, education and industry structure. Coverage includes breeding, nutrition, welfare, husbandry, production systems, processing, product development, physiology, egg and meat quality, industry structure, economics and education. The journal is of interest to academics, researchers, students, extension workers and commercial poultry producers. Scientists from around the world are invited to submit their research work for publication in the coming issue. Interested scientists should submit their research work via [online submission system](#).

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Featured Articles

[Neosporosis in Sheep and Different Breeds of Goats from Southern Jordan: Prevalence and Risk Factors Analysis](#)

By [Al-Majali A.M](#) | Published 08/11/2008 | [Issue 2](#) | Unrated

A cross sectional study was performed to investigate the epidemiology of *Neospora caninum* infection in Southern Jordan. A total of 320 sheep and 300 goats from 38 and 24, sheep and goat flocks, respectively, were randomly sampled and assayed for presence of antibodies against *N. caninum*. A structured pre-tested questionnaire was administered to collect information on flocks' health and management. A multivariable logistic regression model was constructed to investigate risk factors associated with seropositivity to *N. caninum*. The individual true seroprevalence of *N. caninum* in sheep and goats was 4.3 and 5.7%, respectively. The sheep and goat flock level true seroprevalence for *N. caninum* was 45.8 and 48.7%, respectively. The logistic regression model revealed small herd size, having more than one dog and grazing in communal pastures as risk factors for *N. caninum* seropositivity in both sheep and goats. Damascus breed goats were more likely to be seropositive than goats of other breeds.

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[Effects of *Azadirachta indica* on Sheep Infected Naturally with Helminthes](#)

By [H Louvandini](#) | Published 08/11/2008 | [Issue 4](#) | Unrated

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effects of neem (*Azadirachta indica*) on natural helminthes infection in lambs. Forty, four-month-old entire Santa Ines lambs were grazed on pasture, over a 20 week period. They were divided into 4 treatments: Without drenching (ND), 3 g *A. indica*/animal (A3), 6 g *A. indica*/animal (A6) and 9 g *A. indica*/animal (A9) over 5 consecutive days, with an interval of 25 days between drenchings. Faeces were collected weekly and lamb weight and blood collection were carried out fortnightly. Four weeks after the last drenching all lambs were slaughtered, and worm burdens calculated. No significant differences were observed for lamb performance between treatments. Blood parameters highlighted the progress of the worm infections, with sheep on treatments A6 and A9 ending the experiment showing anemia. There was an increase in the total number of worms associated with increasing levels of neem, especially due to the increase in number of *H. contortus* in detriment to the number of *T. colubriformis* for highest levels of neem (A6 and A9). The increasing doses of neem did not improve the control of endoparasites in sheep naturally infected.

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[Effects of Carcass Weight and Muscle on Texture, Structure, Rheological Properties and Myofibre Characteristics of Roe Deer](#)

By [Joanna Kujawska](#) | Published 08/11/2008 | [Issue 4](#) | Unrated

Myofibre characteristic, texture, structure and rheological properties of selected muscles (BF, SM and L) of roe deer of different carcass weight were compared. Muscle texture and rheological properties was determined with the TPA and relaxation test, respectively, performed with a Instron 1140 device. Fibre type percentage and structural elements (muscle fibre cross sectional area and perimysium thickness) were measured in muscle samples using a computer image analysis programme. Of the muscles tested, the highest hardness, chewiness, sum of viscous and elastic moduli and the lower tenderness were found in BF which, at the same time, showed the highest fibre cross sectional area and the thickest perimysium. The most delicate

histological structure and the lowest percentage of type I fibres as well as the lowest hardness, cohesiveness, chewiness and sum of viscous moduli were found in L. The young roe deer muscles showed lower percentage of I fibre type as well as lower values of textural parameters, while the sum of viscous and elastic moduli were higher than in old roe deer muscles. The muscle fibre cross sectional area and the perimysium thickness of young animal muscles were lower than those in the meat of older roe deer.

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Nutrient Digestibility and Gas Production of Some Tropical Feeds Used in Ruminant Diets Estimated by the in vivo and in vitro Gas Production Techniques

By [Taghizadeh Akbar](#) | Published 08/11/2008 | [Issue 4](#) | Unrated

Some feedstuffs which used in ruminants diet (corn grain, soybean meal, wheat bran and alfalfa) were analyzed for chemical composition, apparent in vivo nutrient digestibility, in vitro fermentation gas production and metabolizable energy. Chemical composition of test feeds differed in nutrient contents. Initially apparent in vivo digestibility of alfalfa nutrients were obtained then digestibility of nutrients for the other test feeds were determined by difference method, using 16 Ghezel mature rams (mean weight of 43.9±4 kg). In vivo DM, CP, NDF and OM apparent digestibility were different among the test feeds ($p < 0.05$). Regarding to the results, corn grain had a high DM and OM digestibility between test feeds and soybean meal had a high CP and NDF digestibility between test feeds ($p < 0.05$). Cumulative gas production was recorded at 2, 4, 8, 12, 16, 24, 36, 48, 72 and 96 h of incubation and the equation of $p = A(1 - e^{-ct})$ was used to describe the kinetics of gas production. Potential gas production (A) and rates of gas production (c) differed ($p < 0.01$) among feeds. Corn grain showed higher potential gas production (A) and wheat bran had higher rate of gas production (c) than the other feeds, inverses alfalfa (257.6 mL g⁻¹ DM) and corn grain had lower potential gas production and rate of gas production than the other test feeds, respectively. The metabolizable energy content of feeds was calculated using in vivo organic matter digestibility and gas production data. According to in vivo organic matter digestibility data, the ME values ranged from 9.2 in alfalfa to 13.3 MJ kg⁻¹ DM in corn grain. It was concluded that regarding to different chemical composition of test feeds, the in vivo digestibility, in vitro gas production and ME of feeds showed different values.

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Effect of Fig (Ficus carica) Leaf Extract on the Secretion and Content of Cholesterol in HepG2 Cell

By [Farzad Asadi](#) | Published 08/11/2008 | [Issue 4](#) | Unrated

Traditional medicines remain a source of potential for discovering of new compounds with valuable pharmacological activities. Leaves of *Ficus carica* were dried, powdered and extracted using methanol (ME). An aliquot of ME was dried and re-extracted by water:chloroform and the other aliquot by water: pteruleum ether. Effect of aqueous fractions of the former (ACR; 0.08, 0.1 and 0.13 mg dL⁻¹), the latter (APR; 0.07, 0.1 and 0.15 mg dL⁻¹) and ME (0.03, 0.05 and 0.08 mg dL⁻¹) of *Ficus carica* leaf on the secretion and cell content of cholesterol in HepG2 cells were studied. Extracts were added to the media in both basal and glucose stimulated conditions and incubated for 48h. While glucose significantly increased cholesterol secretion (17±0.76 mg dL⁻¹) vs basal condition (6.91±0.66 mg dL⁻¹), co-incubation with extracts reduced secretion of cholesterol in many concentrations of the stimulated condition. On the other hand, cholesterol content of HepG2 in glucose stimulated condition (2.73±0.39 mg dL⁻¹) showed significant increase compared to the basal status (1.96±0.14 mg dL⁻¹) ($p < 0.001$). Moreover such decrease was shown in response to many concentrations of the extracts. These properties making the hydro-extracts of fig leaf a potentially safe intervention to modulate postprandial hyperlipidemia.

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