



Australian Government



Curtin University



Paralympic Sports Science Research Inspiring women and people with disabilities

Sector: Higher Education and Sports

Country location: Australia, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Jordan

Grantee: Curtin University

Lead Investigator Dr Fadi Ma'ayah Curtin University

Key dates

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This program is funded by the Council for Australian Arab Relations

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About the Project

Paralympic Sports Science Research Inspiring women and people with disabilities

The program's overarching goal is to establish research collaborations through sport, to share sports science Lessons from Australian Paralympic success, and to Inspire Women and People with Disability in the Middle East.

The research exchange program will focus on academic staff from Curtin University visiting UAE, Jordan and Oman to promote high-quality research collaboration and provide support for women and people with disability. We will focus on the following research outcomes and practical examples from Australian Paralympic research and participation. This will include research outcomes to improve health in people with physical disability. Promote sports science through practical workshops and research presentations.

The exchange program will use the knowledge gained from recent research outcomes in sports science to promote sports participation for individuals with a disability and expand it in Jordan, UAE, and Oman. Showcase research in Paralympic

sports with a focus on improving women in the Middle East. The activities will include presentations and workshops for research outcomes in Olympic and Paralympic athletes, Cerebral Palsy football research and football research in general. It will also include sharing the experiences of Australian elite athletes, coaches and researchers with their counterparts in the Middle East. Furthermore, it will have a component in cultural exchange and promoting relationships between the Arab world and Australia.

Activities included presentations, workshops and meetings between all stakeholders in the four countries.



Dr Fadi Maayah and Dr Dale Chapman
in UAE with Mr Theban Salem
Almuhairi the CEO of the Committee

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Dr. Fadi Maayah from the School of Education is the lead investigator on a \$40,000 collaboration project funded by the Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR). The first stage was conducted by having Dr. Fadi Maayah and Dr. Dale Chapman visit Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan this year. In addition, Dr. Sacha Fulton and Paralympian Champion, Gold winner, and OAM Katrina Porter presented online.



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Katrina Porter, OAM, PLY, an Australian Paralympic swimmer and Gold Medalist, joins Dr. Sach Fulton, an Athletic Preparation Expert, in a conversation about their experiences in elite sports and overcoming challenges. Katrina shares insights into her journey as a Paralympic athlete, highlighting the impact of swimming on her life.



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Oman Visit

The first visit was in Oman at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat with Dr Ali Alyarubi, head of Physical Education and Sports Science at the School of Education.

Presentations were conducted over two days with a high level of attendance. Dr Alyarubi said the trip's goal was to establish collaboration between Sultan Qaboos University and promote research collaboration while encouraging inclusivity for people with disabilities.



Dr Fadi Maayah receiving an award from Dr Ali Alyarubi

Students from our Curtin campus in Dubai attended the event which was excellent opportunity to link with our staff and students at our global campus in Dubai.



Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, Muscat with Dr Ali Alyarubi

Dr Ali Alyarubi, the Head of the Sports Science and Physical Education Department at the College of Education at SQU, said: "We are delighted to have staff from Curtin University presenting their research for people with disabilities and like to collaborate with Curtin University on research projects for people with disabilities".



Dr Dale Chapman receiving an award from Dr Ali Alyarubi

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Oman Visit

Dr Mansoor Al Tauqi, CEO of the Omani Paralympic Committee, said, "We love to learn from the Australian experience and model about practical research that can impact positively on the Paralympics athletes and the collaboration between Curtin University and the Omani Paralympic Committee".

Talking with Leena Al Zadjali, who leads Omani Women's Football, was a highlight. We delved into ways to empower and elevate women in sports, sparking ideas for collaboration that felt both meaningful and achievable.



Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, Muscat

Our collaboration resulted in a new PhD project on the health benefits of Cerebral Palsy football in Oman, highlighting the positive impact of teamwork on sports, health, and inclusivity.



Dr Mansoor Al Tauqi and Dr Fadi Maayah

We had the opportunity to sit down with Mr Mohammed Al Yahmadi, the General Secretary of the Oman Football Association, it felt like the beginning of an exciting journey exploring new avenues in football research and sports development.



Presentation in collaboration with Sultan Qaboos University Oman

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United Arab Emirates Visit

The second visit was in the UAE at Al Tigah Club for the Disabled in Sharjah. Many athletes, academics, and coaches attended the two-day event led by Mr Mohammad Al Hameli, the president of the UAE Paralympic Committee, and Mr Theban Salem Almuhaيري, the CEO of the Committee.



Dr Fadi Maayah and Dr Dale Chapman in UAE at Al Tigah Club for Disabled in Sharjah with Mr Mohammad Al Hameli the president of UAE Paralympic Committee and Mr Theban Salem Almuhaيري the CEO of the Committee and Curtin Global students in Dubai



Dr Fadi Maayah and Dr Dale Chapman with Mr Mohammad Al Hameli the president of UAE Paralympic Committee and Mr Theban Salem Almuhaيري



Dr Fadi Maayah and Dr Dale Chapman in UAE with Mr Theban Salem Almuhaيري the CEO of the Committee



UAE attendees



Dr Fadi Maayah and Dr Dale Chapman presenting at Al Tigah Club

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United Arab Emirates Visit



Dr Fadi Maayah and Dr Dale Chapman discussing how they can improve performance and the health of people with disabilities at the Al Tigah Club

Mr Almuhairi stated, "As a result of the visit, Curtin and its staff are welcome to attend our conferences held every two years and present more research and its application to improving performance and the health of people with disabilities" Students from our Curtin campus in Dubai attended the event, providing an excellent opportunity to connect with our staff and students at our global campus in Dubai.



Dr Dale Chapman and Dr Fadi were captivated by The Burj Khalifa during their visit to the UAE.

The presentations and workshops led by Dr Fadi Maayah and Dr Dale Chapman at Al Thiqah Club for the Disabled in Sharjah, UAE, were highly beneficial. They facilitated the exchange of knowledge and expertise among participants from Curtin University Dubai Campus, athletes, and professionals from the Ministry of Sport, sporting associations, and Olympic and Paralympic training centers.

Through these sessions, attendees gained valuable insights into sports science, disability-inclusive practices, and performance enhancement, fostering skill development and learning opportunities.



Dr Dale Chapman receiving an award from Mr Theban Salem Almuhairi the CEO of the Committee

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Jordan Visit

The third visit was to Jordan and included presentations at many organisations and places, including Yarmouk University, Amman Ahlylah University, Jordan Paralympic Committee, Jordan Olympic Committee, Al-Ahli Club, and The Orthodox Club. Hashemite Univerisy, Jordan of University The visit was organised in collaboration with Professor Hashem Al Kililani, the head of the Arab Biomechanics Society and a staff member at the University of Jordan.



Prof Hazzaa M. Al-Hazzaa from Saudi Arabia, Dr Amal Al Hamad, Prof Alia Alghwiri from Jordan and Dr Fadi Maayah

Professor Killani said, "We look forward to collaboration with Australian researchers in Health and Physical Education and Sports Science." Furthermore, he added, "I am also hoping to work with these new networks in the future to conduct research-based activities with people with disabilities and deliver strength and conditioning programs in Jordan."



Dr Fadi Maayah, Dr Dale and Professor Hashem AlKiliani presenting to students and staff at the Orthodox Sporting Club

Dr Maayah was invited as a keynote speaker to present research at The Arab Society of Biomechanics in Sports (ArabSBS) to the first and Second International Conference of the Arab Society of Biomechanics in Sports "Applications of Biomechanics in the Field of Sports and Rehabilitation Sciences" in Amman Jordan in 2023 and in 2024.



Sight seeing in Jerash Jordan

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Jordan Visit

Dr Maayah was invited as a keynote speaker to present his research at the MENA international conference, themed "Mainstreaming – Integration – Inclusion in Physical Education and Sport." The conference is scheduled to take place in Amman, Jordan from April 21 to April 23, 2024 at the Hashemite University and the 3rd International Dead Sea conference of Sport development in health & competition in 2024.



Seema Aoyas and her mum, Rooa Aoyas, with Dr Ziad Tahaneneh and Dr Ali Alnawaesah from Hashemite University.

Dr Chapman experienced his first visit to the Middle East "I am very passionate about supporting and helping people with disabilities and to share my experiences in research with Paralympic athletes teams including many years at the Australian Institute of Sports".



Dr Fadi Maayah and Hannen Nassif, Jordanian Paralympian receiving an award at the MENA International Conference 2024

Dr Maayah said, " I am thankful for the collaboration with my colleagues in Oman, UAE and Jordan for hosting the event", and I want to thank the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade DFAT and the Council Australian-Arab Relations CAAR for funding the project in collaboration with Curtin University".



Dr Fadi Maayah and Dr Dale Chapman seeing in Jerash Jordan

Paralympic Sports Science Research Inspiring women and people with disabilities

Jordan Visit

Meetings were held with Dr. Asem Mansour, Director of The King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) and King Hussein Cancer Foundation, and Amal AlOmari, Director of Research at KHCC. A follow-up meeting occurred with Prof. Alia Alghwiri from the University of Jordan to discuss implementing research collaboration and grant applications between Curtin University and KHCC. As a result, Prof. Alia Alghwiri and academics from Curtin University and KHCC have submitted a grant application for higher education research funding in Jordan.

A productive meeting was also held with His Royal Highness Prince Mired Bin Ra'ad Bin Zeid the President of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD) in Jordan, Dr Khaled Albataineh, and Alia Harran Zureikat, who serves as Adviser to the President and Director of International Relations at the HCD.

HRH Prince Mired warmly welcomes research collaborations to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in Jordan. He facilitated a visit to the Jordanian Paralympic Committee and training centre to further these collaborative efforts.

These engagements with key Jordanian leaders in the healthcare and disability rights spheres pave the way for fruitful research collaborations that can positively impact lives in Jordan.



Dr Dale Chapman presenting at the Jordanian Olympic Committee



Dr Fadi Maayah, Dr Dale Chapman and Professor Hashem Al Kiliani presenting to students and staff at Al-Ahliyya Amman University

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Media Coverage

Jordan Coverage

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This program is generously funded by the Council for Australian Arab Relations (CAAR).

The Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR) aims to broaden and strengthen Australian-Arab relations by advancing shared political, economic, and social interests. Through initiatives like this, we foster a greater appreciation of each other's cultures and values, inspiring women and people with disabilities in the field of Paralympic Sports Science Research.



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