

## Day 2: 15:50 – 16:05

### Physician-Scientists and Clinical Trial Professionals



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#### Short CV

**Dr. Fahal** trained in medicine at the University of Khartoum, Sudan. He then pursued his post-graduate surgical training in Khartoum and London, leading to a consultant surgeon position at Soba University Hospital and a professor of Surgery, University of Khartoum, Sudan.

Prof. Fahal is the founding Director of the Mycetoma Research Centre (MRC), University of Khartoum. He is a high volume researcher in mycetoma, has published and presented extensively his original research in mycetoma has become a world reference. He published more than 230 peer-reviewed articles and edited a book on mycetoma and many textbooks' chapters, booklets and clinical guidelines in a number of themes in surgery, mycetoma and medical education.

One of his major achievements, he in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Sudan and other organizations, has managed to include Mycetoma as Neglected Tropical Disease at the WHO/NTD list in 2016; Resolution no. 69:21. He is currently a Member of the WHO/NTD Diagnostic Technical Advisory Group (DTAG), Skin NTDs subgroup, Geneva.

He is currently the President of the Scientific Research and Innovation Agency, Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Sudan and advisor for the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific research, the Republic of Sudan. Prof. Fahal is the founding Director of the Mycetoma Research Centre (MRC)

He has served as the Director of Educational Development Centre for Medical & Health Professionals, University of Khartoum. He was the Founding Director of the Self Evaluation and Quality Enhancement Administration, University of Khartoum, and the University of Khartoum Academic Secretary.

He is currently the President of the Scientific Research and Innovation Agency, Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Sudan and advisor for the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific research, the Republic of Sudan.

#### Abstract

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are low-resources countries that are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental problems. They face many challenges, including weak economic growth leading to sharp increases in poverty, lack of productive capacity, absence of diversification of exports and high commodity dependence, high vulnerability to environmental shocks and the potential loss of preferential market access. All these issues should be addressed to improve the life quality of the population in these countries and scientific research offers many innovative tools to facilitate solving these problems.

LDC's struggle to provide health care and access to quality health care and that is a fundamental human right. Yet more than half the world's population can't obtain the essential health care. Most communicable diseases, particularly the neglected tropical diseases, are endemic in these countries and these countries lack preparedness for pandemics and medical and health crises.

Preparedness includes good health infrastructure and systems, trained human resources and proper funding. Investments in health and, more generally, in people are critical to building human capital and enabling sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Hence, it is essential to develop a robust clinical research infrastructure, human resources and to invest in science substructure across the LDCs.

It is reported that 15% of the world population resides in the African continent and it is the home to 25% of the global disease burden. Yet, only 1.1% of global investment in health research and development is spent in Africa. This imbalance increased the 'brain drain' of Africa's talented scientists, who simply moved to more developed countries to exercise their skills in research environments with better funding and more modern equipment.

To promote scientific excellence, there is an urgent need to invest in clinical research personnel development and foster the research culture among them. All medical and health institutions need to develop curricula with imbedded research activities at an earlier stage and develop various continuing professional development events to enrich research culture and support young researchers and supporting staff.

Many international research networks dedicated to epidemics have proven useful in marshalling forces to conduct important research in LDCs and support the COVID response. This is an excellent example of fostering research capabilities in LDCs. All these solutions need good funding, thus, governments, NGOs, research institutions, communities, industries and other stakeholders must allocate adequate funds to promote good research and science