

The 2nd International Babylon Conference on Clinical and Experimental Pharmacological Research: focusing on drug development and repurposing, drug safety, and public health

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ABSTRACT

The proceedings of the 2nd International Babylon Conference on Clinical and Experimental Pharmacological Research (taking place at the College of Pharmacy of the University of Babylon, in Hillah, Iraq; April 19-20, 2025) are hereby hosted by *Pharmakeftiki*; a journal founded by the Hellenic Society of Medicinal Chemistry (HSMC) in 1988 and currently published independently with the support of both the HSMC and the Hellenic Pharmaceutical Society. This year's conference proceedings are more extensive in terms of both the number of papers included in them and the thematic representation of the field. In that respect, the conference's scientific programme exhibits an encouraging enrichment that also signifies the importance of this event for the Iraqi pharmacological community. The proceedings cover the main messages of the keynote speakers' talks, present the findings of a large number of clinical, epidemiological, and experimental research studies, and also host interesting (mini-)reviews on important pharmacological topics that, in most cases, are penned by post-graduate students and their supervisors, as part of their degree prerequisites. The conference's committees have successfully established an international forum for the discussion of critical developments in pharmacological research, with this year's conference focusing on drug development and repurposing, drug safety, and public health.

The International Babylon Conference on Clinical and Experimental Pharmacological Research is not only an annual international forum for the communication of pharmacological research and the discussion of the latest developments in the field, but also a major event for the Iraqi medical, biomedical, pharmaceutical, and wider scientific communities. This year's (second) conference builds on the success of the first conference (that took place at the College of Pharmacy of the University of Babylon on the 4th and the 5th of May 2024) with a significantly larger scientific programme and an impressive thematic enrichment. Under the guidance and leadership of Prof. Hussam W. Al-Humadi (the Dean of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Babylon), the members of the steering, the organizing, and the scientific committees of this year's conference have put together what is expected to be a structurally, thematically, and scientifically excellent international meeting, thereby facilitating the development of this recurring event into an institution of national and international importance for the communication of research findings in the field of pharmacology. In my view, this year's remarkable interest for the conference brings us all also a step closer to the establishment of a national pharmacological society for Iraq; a development that we should consider immediately after the conclusion of the conference works.

This year, the 2nd International Babylon Conference on Clinical and Experimental Pharmacological Research takes place at the College of Pharmacy of the University of Babylon, in Hillah, Iraq, on the 19th and the 20th of April 2025, under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Republic of Iraq, the University of Babylon and its College of Pharmacy, as well as the University of Hilla. The conference proceedings are hereby gracefully hosted by *Pharmakeftiki*; a journal founded by the Hellenic Society of Medicinal Chemistry (HSMC) in 1988 and currently published independently with the support of both the HSMC and the Hellenic Pharmaceutical Society. In a similar manner to last year's conference proceedings, the current proceedings cover

the main messages of the keynote speakers' talks, present the findings of a large number of clinical, epidemiological, and experimental research studies, and also host interesting (mini-)reviews on important pharmacological topics that, in most cases, are penned by postgraduate students and their supervisors, as part of their degree prerequisites.

As far as the objectives of this year's conference are concerned, these remain unaltered and can be summarized as follows: (i) to facilitate the mapping of the Iraqi pharmacological research activity and priorities, and (ii) to facilitate global collaborations. However, readers will notice that, in contrast to last year's thematic dominance of papers communicating the findings of ethnopharmacological research, alarming data regarding antibiotic misuse, or promising applications of nanotechnology in drug formulation and delivery¹, this year's conference proceedings are significantly enriched with papers focusing on drug development and repurposing, exploring critical drug safety issues, or attempting to address important public health challenges. This thematic enrichment is – in my opinion – an encouraging indicator of a swift of focus towards the long-awaited embracing of pharmaceutical innovation for the benefit of the Iraqi pharmaceutical sector^{2,3}, the strengthening of pharmacovigilance for the improvement of drug safety standards⁴⁻⁶, as well as the study of critical public health issues related to social pharmacology and healthcare system preparedness⁷⁻⁹.

My work as editor has focused again on ensuring that all proceedings papers are edited for accuracy, clarity, and consistency. This task has been greatly facilitated by the contributors' patience, enthusiasm, and collaboration, as well as by the unwavering support of the conference's organizing committee, the journal's editorial board, and the publisher's staff. I am certain that the proceedings in hand convey the intended messages in the best possible manner, and that the readers will enjoy and appreciate the remarkable thematic diversity, the interesting research findings, and the academic potential recorded in them.

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Conflicts of interest

As of March 2025, the proceedings editor (and author of the current editorial) is an honorary professor at the University of Babylon.

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