

Scientific Publication Productivity and Research Activities of Iraqi Pediatricians in the Field of Pediatric Nephrology: A Bibliometric Analysis

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1. Abstract

Background: Bibliometrics is increasingly used to assess the quantity and quality of scientific research output in many research fields throughout the world. This study aims to update Iraqi pediatricians' research productivity in the field of nephrology using bibliometric methods and analysis of the contribution of Iraqi pediatricians to the field of pediatric nephrology literature.

Methods: Papers published by Iraqi pediatricians' in the field of pediatric nephrology were retrieved from "Web of Science" and "PubMed". The number and types of papers and author's h-index (Hirsch index) were analyzed. Papers published by researchers other than pediatricians such as urologic surgeons and basic sciences researchers were not included in this study.

Results: A total of 53 papers were found published in a total of 11 journals including Pediatric Nephrology, Therapy (Clinical practice), Journal of Tropical Pediatrics, Journal of Nephrology and Renal Transplantation, Urology, Clin Exp Nephrol, American Journal of Medical Genetics A, The Open Urology and Nephrology Journal and Acta Paediatrica, Archives of Disease in Childhood and Saudi Journal of Kidney Disease and Transplantation.

The vast majority of papers, 49 (92.4 %) were published by Aamir Jalal Al-Mosawi. Only four of our papers [Etiological and clinical patterns of childhood urolithiasis in Iraq (2005). Profile of renal diseases in Iraqi children: A single-center report (2015), Hypertension in hemodialyzed children (2016), The predictive factors for relapses in children with steroid-sensitive nephrotic syndrome (2016)] were published by authors other than Aamir Jalal Al-Mosawi and were carefully examined and found to include unreliable, non-authentic and largely misleading information.

The work of Aamir Jalal Al-Mosawi represented the authentic reliable source about childhood renal disorders in Iraq.

The work of Aamir Jalal Al-Mosawi provided a comprehensive knowledge about childhood renal disorders in Iraqi children. The papers of Aamir Jalal Al-Mosawi included 12 research papers, 2 case reports, one case series, three review articles and at least 31 conferences' abstracts.

Conclusion: Aamir Jalal Al-Mosawi is perfectly regarded as the undisputable pioneer of pediatric

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Received Date: August 28, 2019; **Accepted Date:** September 25, 2019; **Published Date:** September 27, 2019

nephrology in Iraq.

2. Introduction

The papers of Aamir Jalal Al-Mosawi included descriptions of the patterns of various childhood disorders including acute glomerulonephritis [1], chronic renal failure [2-6], renal tubular disorders including nephropathic cystinosis [7-14], oculo-cerebro-renal syndrome [15-17], Hinman syndrome [18,19].

He described the challenges in the treatment of chronic renal failure in Iraq and in the developing world [20-22].

Aamir Al-Mosawi described a new model for the management of chronic renal failure [21-34] and reported six-year dialysis freedom in a girl with end-stage renal disease [25,29,35]. This new model has become increasingly known as dietary on intestinal dialysis [36-38].

Aamir Al-Mosawi also described a new conservative management for childhood urolithiasis [39,40] and also a new therapeutic approach for the treatment of refractory vitamin D-resistant rickets [7].

He also described ocular abnormalities in childhood chronic renal failure [41,42] and reported the association of renal agenesis with Coffin Siris syndrome [43-46].

Aamir Al-Mosawi described the new association of idiopathic hyperuricosuria, hypercalciuria and infantile renal stone disease and suggested a therapeutic approach for its treatment [8].

Aamir Al-Mosawi currently is the Iraqi pediatrician and hospital-based clinician with the highest H-index in Scopus and Publons [47,48].

3. Discussion

In Iraq, the highest professional certificate in pediatrics is received after four years of training as a pediatric resident with increasing responsibility. By the end of the first year of training, there is a written exam (Part I Exam). During the third and fourth years of training, a clinical research should be made and submitted as thesis to complete the fulfillment of the

highest professional certificate and make the candidate eligible to take the final clinical and written exams [49,50].

Although the highest professional certificate is like the board certificates in North America, the inclusion of a mandatory thesis requirement, make the highest certificate, a doctoral certificate that is associated with a Ph.D. degree or it is equivalent to the Ph.D. degree for the academic purposes [49].

During the third and fourth years of his pediatric training, Aamir Al-Mosawi made a research entitled “The pattern of acute glomerulonephritis in Iraqi children”. The thesis has been awarded an Excellent evaluation by the examining committee and after the final and written and clinical exams, he ranked the first among all the physicians who received the highest professional certificate in pediatrics in my country that year. When he received the highest professional certificate in pediatrics, the body granting the certificates was called “The Iraqi Council of Medical Specialization”, but it is later called “The Iraqi Board of Medical Specialization” [49,50].

The thesis was published in *Pediatric Nephrology*, *Journal of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association* [1].

Because Aamir Al-Mosawi ranked the first among all the physicians who received the highest professional certificate in pediatrics in my country, he had the opportunity to keep working in the same training center “The University Hospital in Al-Kadhimiya” as a consultant pediatrician (a specialist pediatrician with the highest professional certificate). As the doctoral thesis of Aamir Al-Mosawi was about childhood renal disorders, he established the first pediatric nephrology clinic in the country which was opened once weekly and shortly he established a ward for childhood renal disorders in the department of pediatrics in the hospital [49].

As consultant pediatrician in the consultation clinics of general pediatric and pediatric nephrology, Aamir Al-Mosawi adopted the practices of evidence-based

medicine to deal with the therapeutic challenges and improve the patients care. He tried to share his early experiences in the practice of evidence-based medicine with world scientific leaders in the fields of pediatrics [49].

Therefore, he wrote to Ira Greifer (Figure 1), a pioneer of pediatric nephrology who was the secretary general of the International Association of Pediatric Nephrology during that time.



Figure 1: A sketch of Ira Greifer, a pioneer of pediatric nephrology. It was not long time when Aamir Al-Mosawi received a reply from Ira Greifer. He wrote “I was very pleased to receive your letter and know that you are working very hard to bring the benefit of modern knowledge, techniques and treatment to children in your country with Kidney and Urologic problems.” Figures 2A and B show the 2-page letter of Ira Greifer.



Figure 2A: The 2-page letter of Ira Greifer.

Dr. Jawad
Page 2

I would be most supportive of helping you become members, by subsidizing the membership of you and your colleagues for a short period of time.

Also, I am looking forward to the continuing development of the Pan Arab Pediatric Nephrology Association (PAPNA), whose next meeting will take place in Riyadh in the middle of November, 2000.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ira Greifer M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics & Nephrology
Montefiore Medical Center/Albert
Einstein College of Medicine

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Figure 2B: The 2-page letter of Ira Greifer.

Ira Greifer also wrote “I was most fascinated by your use of gum Arabic in children with chronic renal failure, in attempt to promote low protein diet. With this experience and your general experience with acute glomerular nephritis in Iraqi children, should be considered for publication in our journal “Pediatric Nephrology”, if it was presented for review to our editors.”

Ira Greifer also sent an application for membership in the International Pediatric Nephrology Association and Aamir Al-Mosawi soon became a member of the international association [49].

Thereafter, Aamir Al-Mosawi published four researches, including his thesis in Pediatric Nephrology, Journal of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association [1,2,20,23].

The letter of Ira Greifer inspired Aamir Al-Mosawi to document his comprehensive knowledge and experiences in the field of pediatric nephrology and in addition to publishing a paper about the etiology of chronic renal failure in Iraqi children in Pediatric Nephrology, he published a paper about the spectrum of renal tubular disorders in Iraqi children in other journals [7-14,51-54].

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Citation: Al-Mosawi AJ. Scientific Publication Productivity and Research Activities of Iraqi Pediatricians in the Field of Pediatric Nephrology: A Bibliometric Analysis. *SunKrist J Neonat Pediatr*. 2019; 1: 1004.

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