

# Dr. Felwah Al-Zaid

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## EDUCATION

- **Bachelor degree** | Medicine & Surgery (MBBS) 2006  
King Abdul-Aziz University (KAU), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- **M.Sc.** | Physiology (neuro-endocrine physiology) 2012  
King Saud University (KSU), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- **Ph.D.** | Medicine (Clinical Medicine Research (neuro-endocrine physiology)) Imperial College London, UK. 2019

## RESEARCH INTEREST

○ **Interested in studying sex differences and the role of sex hormones in neurological disorders** including autism and Parkinson's disease, giving a focus on disease mechanism and exploring potential neuroprotective agents and neuromodulation.

**Master degree research** involved studying the role of certain hormones in the pathophysiology of autism.

**PhD degree research** involved studying the role of certain transcription factor in sex differences in Parkinson's disease using postmortem brain tissues, whereby a novel mechanism explaining the sex difference in incidence of Parkinson's disease was identified and translation of the results into a novel neuroprotective agent was achieved by applying the postmortem human studies on cell culture model for Parkinson's disease.

## AWARDS

- 1. The Gold Award for "**Research Award 2011**" received at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Postgraduate Medical Education Research Day organized by the Medical Education Department, College of Medicine, King Saud University. The research project title is "*The Potential Role of Sex Hormones in the Pathophysiology of Autism in Saudi Children*", presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2012.
- 2. The Gold Award for "**Research Award 2012**" received at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Postgraduate Medical Education Research Day organized by

the Medical Education Department, College of Medicine, King Saud University; the research project title is “*Altered Ghrelin Levels in Autistic Children: A Novel Finding Supported by Hormonal Inter-relations*”, presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2013.

3. The **1<sup>st</sup> place award** at the health sciences track- post graduate, at the 4<sup>th</sup> KSU Student Scientific Symposium, for the presented research titled “*A Novel Study Highlighting Altered Ghrelin Levels in Autistic Children: a Finding Supported by a Hormonal Inter-relation*”, which was held at Thursday 14 February, 2013.

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Al-Zaid FS, Alhader AA and Al-Ayadhi L. Altered Ghrelin levels in boys with autism: A novel finding associated with hormonal dysregulation. *Sci Rep.* 2014; 4, 6478.
2. Al-Zaid FS, Alhader AA and Al-Ayadhi LY. The second to fourth digit ratio (2D:4D) in Saudi boys with autism: A potential screening tool. *Early Human Develop.* 2015; 91(7):413–41.
3. Felwah S. Al-Zaid (April 12<sup>th</sup> 2017). Sex Bias in Autism, Autism, Michael Fitzgerald and Jane Yip, IntechOpen, DOI: 10.5772/67402. (Book Chapter).
4. Glenda E. Gillies, Kanwar Virdee, Ilse Pienaar, Felwah Al-Zaid, and Jeffrey W. Dalley. Enduring, Sexually Dimorphic Impact of In Utero Exposure to Elevated Levels of Glucocorticoids on Midbrain Dopaminergic Populations. *Brain Sci.* 2017 Jan; 7(1): 5.

## PEER REVIEW

1. Fourth finger dependence of autism spectrum disorder in multi-digit force coordination. *Scientific reports.* 19.10.2018.
2. The weight status and body composition analysis among polish children with ASD. *Archives of medical science.* 01.07.2019.
3. Neurological symptoms as the first atypical manifestations of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 infection. *Archives of medical science.* 12.8.2020.
4. Awareness and stigma of autism spectrum disorders in undergraduate students. *Psychological reports.* 31.12.2020.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. 15<sup>th</sup> International and 14<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Endocrinology (ICE/ECE 2012), Florence, Italy (5-9 May, 2012). Ghrelin and growth hormones levels are decreased in Saudi autistic children.
2. 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the GRS and IGF society, Munich, Germany (17-20 Oct. 2012). Ghrelin and growth hormones levels are decreased in Saudi autistic children.
3. The 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease 29 March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 Vienna, Austria.
4. Advances in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Therapies an AAT-AD/PD focus meeting, Torino, Italy, 15-18 March 2018.