

Research Institute of Sciences and Engineering

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Studies
University of Sharjah



The purpose of this circular is to briefly introduce leading researchers in sciences and engineering and highlight aspects of their research experience and achievements. The following researchers are introduced in this circular:

- Professor Maamar Bettayeb
- Professor Madjid Merabti
- Professor Abdul-Kadir Hamid
- Professor Abdul Ghani Orabi
- Professor Tahar Laoui
- Professor Ali El-Keblawy
- Professor Ramesh Bansal
- Professor Mounir Gaidi
- Dr. Anis Allagui

Professor Maamar Bettayeb

Maamar Bettayeb is a Professor of Control Engineering and Signal Processing in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Sharjah since August 2000. Prof. Maamar received the B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from University of Southern California, Los Angeles, in 1976, 1978 and 1981, respectively. He is a member of the Sustainable Energy Development and the Autonomous Robotics and Active Vision Research Groups of the Research Institute of Sciences and Engineering.

Prof. Maamar is currently the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies at University of Sharjah. Formerly he served as Advisor to the UoS Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Scientific Research, Director of Research and Studies Center, and Chairman of Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

His recent research interests are in H_{∞} optimal control, rational approximation, signal and image processing, process control, networked control systems, fractional dynamics and control, nonlinear estimation and filtering, soft computing, wavelets, renewable energies and engineering education.

His research achievements include publications of over 300 journal and conference papers, numerous research grants, supervision of over 50 M. Sc. and Ph.D. students at various universities and high international recognition in research. He has also received numerous research and teaching awards from the University of Sharjah and other organizations.

For additional information see <http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/about/Senior-Admin/VCRGS/Pages/Bio.aspx>



Professor Madjid Merabti

Madjid Merabti is Professor of Networked and Security Systems and Dean of the College of Sciences, University of Sharjah, UAE since September 2014. He was the Dean of the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, UK for 12 years, continuously, (2002-2014). Prior to joining Liverpool, he worked for University College London and Lancaster Universities. He was, concurrently, Director of a University Research Centre for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure (PROTECT), addressing the challenges of innovating, building and managing new critical infrastructure systems for the 21st century that are both resilient to unpredicted changes and secure against external attacks.



He is a graduate of Lancaster University in the UK. He has over 30 years' experience in conducting research and teaching in the areas of Computer Networks (fixed and wireless), Computer Network

Security, Digital Forensics, Multimedia Systems, Games Technology, and Human Digital Memories and their applications. His background, mentors, research interests and motivations, career, and contributions to science are detailed in a video that he did for UKFutureTv in 2006. UKFutureTv is a (cloud) repository of well-known scientists, researchers, technologists and their contributions in the UK (see “Life Career Story” video in web link below).

Professor Merabti is widely published with over 400 publications in these areas and led a number of EU, UK, and industry-supported research projects adding up to £6 Million funding in his last 4 years at Liverpool. He is particularly proud to have graduated 36 PhD students, from 12 different countries, in the course of his work - some of whom are full professors. He has examined 45 PhD theses in the UK, Italy, France, Spain, Finland, Ireland, and Australia.

He has acted as member of various journal editorial boards and a frequent Keynote Speaker at major International Conferences, 5 in the last 4 years at Sharjah (Bali’14, Cyprus’14, London’15, Jordan’17, Edinburgh’18). His latest presentation for the conference title Internet of Things (IoT): Safety and Security of Human Digital Memories (see video in web link below).

Madjid is member of the following University Research Groups: OpenUAE, Information and Network Security, and Big Data Mining and Multimedia.

For additional information see:.

<http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/Sciences/Pages/dvideos.aspx>

Professor Abdul-Kadir Hamid

Professor Abdul-Kadir Hamid is a graduate of the university of Manitoba, Canada, and has more than 27 years of experience of scholarship in teaching and learning, ABET and local accreditations, applied and theoretical research, governmental and industrial organizations and key academic leadership positions in several countries like UAE, KSA and Canada. Currently he is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and acting dean of the college of Engineering. He was also the chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering department, Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering department, and Vice dean for the college of engineering.

Prof. Hamid has significant experience of collaborating with industry and government organizations. He has made significant contribution to the development of new programs at the university of Sharjah like Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, PhD program in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Water Desalination Engineering.

Prof. Hamid has published over 100 journal and conference papers are indexed in IEEE explorer and Scopus. He has supervised masters students in Electrical Engineering and Engineering Management. He has funded projects from University of Sharjah, SEWA and KFUPM. His research interests are in the areas of Applied Electromagnetics and Renewable Energy.

For additional information see:

http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/eng/dept/ecep/Pages/ppl_detail.aspx?mcid=3

Professor Abdul Ghani Olabi

Professor Abdul Ghani Olabi is Chair and Head of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering Department “SREE” at the University Of Sharjah “UOS”. Before joining UOS, he was the director and founding member of the Institute of Engineering and Energy Technologies at the University of the West of Scotland.



Prof Olabi received his M.Eng and Ph.D. from Dublin City University, since 1984 he worked at different national and international institutes such as; National Research Centre-Italy “CNR”, Research Centre of FIAT-Italy “CRF”, Dublin City University “DCU” and Institute of Engineering and Energy Technologies “IEET” at UWS.

His research interests are in the area(s) of Renewable Energy and Smart Materials, the main topics of interest in renewable energy are: Hydrogen and Fuel Cell, Energy Storage Systems, Bio-Energy and Marine Energy He actively collaborates with researchers from (Europe, USA, Japan, China and many other countries) and the founder and chairman for 2 international conferences: Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection “SEEP” and Materials Science and Smart Materials MSSM. He serves/served as editor for Energy Journal and Reference Modules in Materials Science and Engineering (Elsevier) and Editor in Chief for the Encyclopedia of Smart Materials (Elsevier) and Editor in Chief for the Renewable Energy in Energies journal, Prof Olabi is the steering committee chairman for SEEP and MSSM.

Prof Olabi has supervised postgraduate research students (10 M.Phil and 32PhD) to successful completion, 13 of them are holding an academic position as Assistant/Associate or Full professor in UK, Ireland, Malaysia and Kuwait. His research achievements include: (165 journal publications, 70 Proceedings/books/book chapters, 130 conference publications, 2 patents, £5 M Grants, 6 awards; 7925 citations; 52 H-Index and 118 I10-index.

For additional information

see:http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/eng/dept/sre/Pages/ppl_detail.aspx?mcid=1

Professor Tahar Laoui

Professor Tahar Laoui is currently a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at the University of Sharjah, UAE. Prior to this appointment, he was a Professor in Materials & Manufacturing Engineering in Mechanical Engineering Dept. at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. He received his PhD from the University of Washington, Seattle, USA in 1990. Keywords describing his research interests include development of advanced materials and nanostructured materials, nanocomposites, inorganic membranes, hardmetals/cemented carbides/sialons, specifically tailored for a variety of applications including enhanced mechanical/thermal properties of metallic and polymer matrices, water treatment, water desalination, gas separation, corrosion enhancement of metallic materials, and wear resistant cutting/drilling tool bits.



For the past several years, he has conducted research in joint collaboration with colleagues from Mechanical Engineering Dept. at MIT, USA, on the development of inorganic membranes for water treatment and water desalination by exploring techniques to investigate and understand the transport of water molecules and ions through macro- and nano-structured materials such as zeolites, alumina-based ceramics, carbon nanotubes and graphene.

Prof Laoui is a Fellow of The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IMMM), member of the editorial board of several journals including Materials Letters, Membranes, Clean Water. He is and was a member of several professional societies including Materials Research Society, European Membrane Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, UK Biomaterials Association, Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He has served as a reviewer/member of the review committee for many journals and national/international conferences. He has published over 180 refereed journal/conference papers and conference abstracts. He has Google citations of over 6000 and h-index of 31.

For additional information see:

http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/eng/Pages/ppl_detail.aspx?mcid=17&clt=en

Professor Ali El-Keblawy

Professor Ali El-Keblawy is a Professor of plant ecology, University of Sharjah since 2010. He established and worked as a director for Sharjah Seed Bank (for 5 years), that aims to collect the genetic resources and conserve the biodiversity and endangered flora of the UAE. Prof El-Keblawy also served in the UAE for 13 years. Currently, he is the Chair of the Applied Biology Department and coordinator for the Environment and Chemical Biology Research Group, RISE.

His research interests are in the areas of exploration, conservation and sustainability of natural resources of the UAE. He is working on establishment new cash crops suitable for the environment of the UAE to produce edible oil and biofuels. He is in the editorial board of five international journals, three of them with high impact factors. Prof El-Keblawy also received several awards in research from UAE University and University of Sharjah.

Prof El-Keblawy research achievements include: 95 journal publications, 15 books/book chapters, 83 conference publications. During the last 10 years, he secured around 25 research projects from national and international organizations with around 8 million AED. Prof El-Keblawy also received several awards in research from UAE University and University of Sharjah.

For additional information see

http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/Sciences/dept/ab/Pages/ppl_detail.aspx?mcid=3

Professor Ramesh Bansal

Ramesh Bansal is a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at University of Sharjah. He has more than 25 years of diversified experience of scholarship of teaching and learning, accreditation, research, industrial, and academic leadership in several countries. Previously he was the chair of Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at University of Sharjah and Professor and Group Head (Power) in the ECE Department at University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa. Prior to his appointment at UP, he was employed by the University of Queensland, Australia; University of the South Pacific, Fiji; BITS Pilani, India; and Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio.

Prof. Bansal has significant experience of collaborating with industry and Government organizations. He has made significant contribution to the development and delivery of BS and ME programmes for Utilities. He has extensive experience in the design and delivery of CPD programmes for professional engineers. He has carried out research and consultancy and attracted significant funding from Industry and Government Organizations.

Prof. Bansal has published over 275 journal articles, presented papers at conferences, books and chapters in books. He has Google citations of over 6000 and h-index of 35. He has supervised 16 PhD, 4 Post Docs and currently supervising several PhD students. His diversified research interests are in the areas of Renewable Energy (Wind, PV, DG, Micro Grid) and Smart Grid. Professor Bansal is an editor of several highly regarded journals. He is a Fellow and Chartered Engineer IET-UK, Fellow Engineers Australia, Fellow Institution of Engineers (India), Fellow SAIEE, and Senior Member of IEEE-USA.

For additional information see:

http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/eng/dept/ecep/Pages/ppl_detail.aspx?mcid=48&clt=en



Professor Mounir Gaidi

Prof. Mounir Gaidi received his B.Sc from Monastir University (Tunisia). He has completed his Doctoral Degree (Ph.D) in physics (Materials Science) from the national Institute of polytechnic of Grenoble (France). During his PhD project Dr Mounir has acquired a good expertise in the optimization of sensor properties by manipulating the concentrations of metallic nanoparticles added in SnO₂ films. His PhD thesis has been selected to be among the top 20 % best PhD in France for the 1999 year. He is actually professor of physics at the University of Sharjah. He worked for many research institutes such as National center of Scientific Research (France), National Institute of scientific Research (Canada) and the Research and technology center of energy (Tunisia). Currently Prof. Mounir Gaidi's researches focus on Nanomaterials for photovoltaic solar cells applications, doped and un-doped metal oxide Gas sensors, Nanomaterials for photocatalysis and Multiferroic materials for opto-electronic application. He is also expert in Thin films elaboration by physical (PLD-sputtering), chemical process, electrochemical and pyrosol techniques. Prof. Mounir co-authored more than 77 papers and books in the field of nano and smart materials applications. He is involved in many national and international projects collaboration with Canadian (INRS-EMT), Tunisian (Research and technology center of Energy) and Saudi Arabia (King Saud university) groups. Prof. Mounir served as Editor member for many international scientific journal and as a scientific council for different conferences.



His research achievements include: 77 journal publications, 3 books chapters, 45 conference publications, 5 Grants, 4 awards; 991 citations and 15 H-Index.

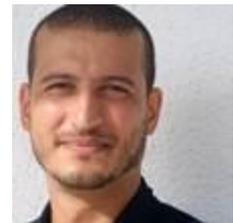
Prof. Mounir is the winner of the Annual incentive award for Scientific research at the University of Sharjah for the year 2017/2018 and he awarded from the Venus international Foundation as a distinguished faculty in science.

For additional information see:

http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/Sciences/dept/ap/Pages/ppl_detail.aspx?mcid=6

Dr. Anis Allagui

Dr. Anis Allagui has been an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Sharjah, since 2013. Prior to joining the faculty, he was an FQRNT Postdoctoral Fellow at the Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering of the University of Ottawa (2011-2013), after completing his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 2011 at Concordia University (Montreal, Canada) and a M.Sc. in Engineering Mechanics in 2007 at Ecole Polytechnique de Nantes (Nantes, France). He is currently a member of the Advanced Functional Materials research group of the Center for Advanced Materials Research, under the Research Institute of Sciences and Engineering.



His principal research interests are focused on the two areas of (i) high-voltage electrochemical micro-plasma, and (ii) low-voltage electrochemical devices and processes for energy-related applications. Specifically, he is interested in developing cost-effective and scalable electrochemical manufacturing techniques for designing non-precious metal oxides, graphene-related materials and composites for electrochemical energy storage, fuel cells, and electrocatalytic reactions. He is also working on modeling the dc and ac behaviors of electrochemical systems using nonlinear analysis tools and fractional-order equivalent circuitry.

His work is mainly carried out through joint collaborations with Prof. Ahmed Elwakil (Dept. of Electrical Engineering, University of Sharjah), Prof. Elena Baranova (Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, University of Ottawa), Dr. Todd Freeborn (Dept. of Electrical Engineering, University of

Alabama), and Dr. Mohammed Fouda (Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Irvine).

He is currently a member of the Editorial Board of AEÜ - International Journal of Electronics and Communications (Elsevier), and Heliyon (Elsevier), and served as Guest Editor for Special Issues such as Catalysis Today (Elsevier) and AEÜ - International Journal of Electronics and Communications (Elsevier).

His research achievements include 50 journal publications, 2 books/book chapters, 21 conference publications with 700 citations and an H-index of 17. He secured over 1 million AED in research grants, and received the 2016 University of Sharjah Research Award in 2016.

For additional information see:

http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/eng/dept/sre/Pages/ppl_detail.aspx?mcid=6

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