



First Cohort students graduated from the new Faculty of Veterinary medicine / University of Kufa

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Abstract

Thirty-four students made history on July 04 2013 when they graduated from the new faculty of veterinary

medicine in university of Kufa (FVMUK). The University of Kufa/ faculty of veterinary medicine students, who enrolled in October 2008, are the first cohort to have successfully completed the five-year veterinary degree. The five-year course is unique in that students get hands on experience with animals from day one and graduation project in year five. Students awarded degree as Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. Assistant Professor Ahmed Al-Azam, Acting Dean and assistant Professor of Veterinary Pathology, said: "This is a momentous day for the University of Kufa, students, their families and the veterinary profession. We were given an exceptional opportunity to establish a new veterinary faculty. Recognition by the Iraqi veterinary medical syndicate was the highest possible embracing they could award, their approval and today's graduation ceremony is the capstone of five years successful hard work for staff and students.

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Introduction

The development and progress of human civilization has been associated with the ability of man to exist together with animals. The human being realized his need for animals, whether hunting, nomadic or as a farmer. Iraq has a large population of animals: sheep, goats, cattle, water buffaloes, horses, donkeys, mules, and camels (Khamas &Nour, 2004) Camels Iraq's rich and distinctive livestock population is largely a result of a sound nucleus from which the most common farm animal species were produced (Al-salihi, 2012).Iraq established its education system in 1921, and the first college of veterinary medicine was established in the 1950s within Baghdad university. This college has

provided veterinary education and prepared graduates and veterinarians for more than 55 years (Al-salihi, 2012). The veterinary medical education in Iraq faces challenges from different factual vicinities and due to the society needs, there are currently 15 veterinary colleges in the country, which differ with respect to the number of students, staff members and equipment they have. The FVMUK was established in 2008 to serve the society and preserve animal welfare in the surrounded geographical area.

The intent of this article is to provide an overview of faculty of veterinary medicine / university of Kufa after first Cohort student's graduation, and suggestions on how the faculty may be improved.

Faculty of veterinary medicine in Kufa city

The FVMUK was established in 2008 and students, who enrolled in October 2008, are the first cohort to have successfully completed the five-year veterinary degree in July 04 2013. The Faculty established in Kufa city in Al-Najaf province (Figure1.). The faculty is located in the heart of Kufa city near the Euphrates River and close to the Faculty of dentistry. Kufa (al-Kūfah, former Mesopotamian city) is one of most important Islamic cities in Iraq, about 170 kilometres (110 miles) south of Baghdad, and 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) northeast of Najaf. It is located on the banks of the Euphrates River. The estimated population in 2003 was 110,000. The city was the final capital of 'Imam Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib, and was founded within the first hundred years of the 622 Hijra. In this city, there is also the school where Jaber Iben Hayan studied. Westerners call him "the father of chemistry". Kufa was the city of the most beautiful Arab calligraphy, in which the Koran was written, as well as the broad outline of Arab grammar Abu El-Assouad Addaouali, whose grammatical school competed with the Basra school. The Najaf province and all its villages including kufa city is considered as one of the most important agriculture areas and livestock production, in addition to the Najaf desert, which contents a variety of natural resources and large number of camels that dominant there.



Figure1. Shows, the location of FVMUK in the heart of Kufa city near the Euphrates River

Veterinary Educational system

The FVMUK in Kufa, as other Iraqi colleges of veterinary medicine follow classical standard curriculum. Courses in veterinary education are divided into academic and clinical components, which are studied over five years and are accompanied by summer practical training courses and final year research, project (Figure 2.). Currently, the faculty runs only the undergraduate studies and services institute in the Al-Najaf province. The faculty has well established six departments which are: Anatomy and histology, Physiology and pharmacology, Microbiology, Public health, Pathology and poultry diseases and clinical sciences.

First year

Course	Lecture (h)	Lab (h)	Total credit
Biology	2	2	6
General chemistry	2	2	6
Anatomy	2	2	6
Animal management	2	2	6
Poultry management (2 nd semester)	1	2	2
Computer	1	2	4
Democracy and human rights	2	0	4
Total	12	12	34

Second year

Course	Lecture (h)	Lab (h)	Total credit
Biochemistry	3	2	8
Physiology	4	3	10
Anatomy	2	3	7
Histology	2	3	7
Animal nutrition	2	2	6
Genetics (1 st semester)-	2	0	2
Embryology (2nd semester)-	1	0	1
Statistics (2nd semester)-	2	2	3
Total	18	14	44

Third year

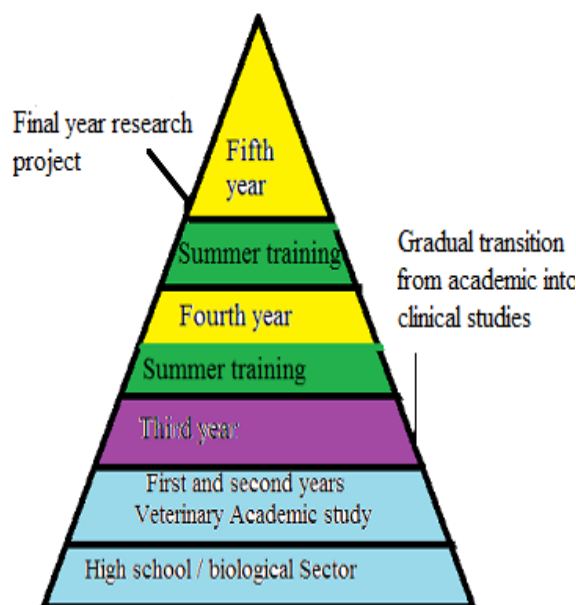
Course-	Lecture (h)	Lab (h)-	Total credit
Pathology	3	3	9
Pharmacology	3	2	8
Parasitology	3	2	8
Microbiology	3	3	9
Immunology (1 st semester)	2	2	3
Toxicology (2 nd semester)	2	0	2
Clinic (2 nd semester)	2	0	1
Total	16	14	40

Fourth year

Course-	Lecture (h)	Lab (h)-	Total credit
Clinic	0	4	4
Infectious diseases & epidemiology	3	2	6
Therigenology	2	2	6
Poultry diseases	2	2	6
Medicine	3	0	6
Surgery	3	2	8
Clinical pathology	1	2	4
Zoonotic diseases (2 nd semester)	2	0	2
Total	16	12	42

Fifth year

Course	Lecture (h)	Lab (h)	Total credit
Clinic	0	13	13
Veterinary public health	2	2	6
Obstetrics	1	2	4
Fish diseases (1 st semester)	1	2	2
Medicine	3	0	6
Surgery	2	2	6
Research project	1	0	2
Morbid anatomy & forensic medicine (2 nd semester)	1	2	2
Veterinary ethics (2 nd semester)	1		1
Summer Clinic	0	3	2
Total	12	26	44



Hierarchy of educational system in faculty of veterinary medicine / University of Kufa

The total number of subjects are 40 and made up of 204 units in total during the five years

Figure 2. Shows the courses, that are taught in the FVMUK and the Hierarchy education system from first year until year fifth year.

Staff and facilities

The FVMUK has a number of academic staff who teaches in different departments (Figure 3.) as well as a support staff and technician who assist in the teaching processes. The faculty is well equipped with modern equipment that is necessary for teaching processes as well as for research activities. The FVMUK has classrooms, laboratories, research facilities, offices and library. The faculty has established the research committee and animal ethical committee to ensure keeping the animal welfare issue and quality assurance.



Figure.3. Show FVMUK’s academic staff and some other colleagues from college of veterinary medicine/ University of Baghdad during the one-day seminar about the application of drugs and its side-effects on public health

What is the next?

From day one of establishment, the FVMUK attempts to improve the quality of veterinary education in different aspects in order to provide next generation of veterinarians with appropriate knowledge and skills to perform their duties with a high degree of professional quality. The “One Medicine” concept was reintroduced during the second half of the 20th century by Dr. Schwabe in his book Veterinary Medicine and Human Health and is credited with renewing recognition that the “cumulative effect of all practitioners of medicine is aimed at quality of human life and survival” (Schwabe, 1984). Schwabe, (1984) always mentioned that “the critical needs of man include the combating of diseases, ensuring enough food, adequate environmental quality, and a society in which humane values prevail” (Schwabe, 1984). Schwabe’s vision that human and veterinary medical practitioners are obliged to work together in sharing information to ensure the physical, mental, social, economic and inner health for all life have never been more important than it is now in our changing global environment. Most school of medicine and veterinary medicine responded to this concept and has seen a gradual development of their curriculum in the context of global education (Jorge A. Hernandez, Traci M. Krueger , Sheilah A. Robertson , Natalie Isaza, 2009).

In Iraq the veterinary medical educational follow a classical uniform standard curriculum, the change is urgent to empower the curriculum with a global perspective of the veterinary profession, as well as with a humanist education that can help students recognize the importance of respect for cultural differences and the reasons for different degrees of development and growth in the world. This can only be achieved by adoption the concept of curriculum “**modernization and integration toward veterinary professionalism and societal responsibility**”. In addition, the veterinary education most redirected from teaching objectives to major learning objectives and adopted a modern learning technique. The FVMUK is a young faculty and can be established it strategies in the context of global education, which is one of the university of Kufa objectives. It requires formulating, implementing, redirecting and integrating its educational system from traditional teaching to a modern learning technique and considering it as the first unique faculty of veterinary medicine in Iraq that turn off the traditional or classical curriculum and moving into the initiative veterinary international education.

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