



Dr Omar Salem Abdullah Al Attas is one of the prominent figures amongst the distinguished faculty members of King Saud University. His multitasking capability helped him to earn several senior designations in his career over the years. On being a veteran academican of KSU and having served the Kingdom's premier university for over two decades at both academic and administrative levels Dr Attas had the privilege to chair and host The Fourth International Conference of Biomarkers in Chronic Diseases held in Riyadh KSA in May 2010. Besides, heading biochemistry lab he is the Director of Attracting Unit for Distinguished University Staff (AUDUS), Center of Excellence in Biotechnology Research (CEBR) and Biomarkers Research Program (BRP).

Dr Attas, a Fulbright scholar earned a Bachelors degree in Science from KSU in 1978 and a doctorate degree in Clinical Chemistry from Newcastle upon Tyne University UK in 1983. Soon after obtaining his PhD Dr Attas joined KSU's Biochemistry Department and has been engaged in teaching and research activities till date. Acknowledging his sincerity and dedication towards his duties KSU promoted him from assistant to associate and finally in 1999 as professor of Biochemistry. On administrative side he served as Dean - College of Science through 2001 - 2007 and as Vice Dean - Academic Affairs College of Science during 1998 -2001. Above all, he was an acting Chairman for Department of Biochemistry College of Science during 1987-1989.

Having got nominated for a number of prestigious awards for excellence in scientific research, in mid 2009 Dr Attas and his team achieved a major breakthrough in breast cancer risk research. He was instrumental in bringing KSU close to other leading universities of North America, Europe and Asia through signing academic and research pacts over the years. With over 25 years of teaching experience he is presently, supervising three PhD students and eighteen masters' students of KSU. He is also the reviewer for three PhD and ten masters' students' thesis.

In late 2008 he was assigned with the most challenging task of handling the KSU recruitment, as a result a new Unit called The Attracting Unit for Distinguished University Staff (AUDUS) was established on 1st April 2009 by him. Under his leadership, AUDUS achieved incredible success in its mission of pooling exceptional academicians into the KSU faculty list thereby surpassing a

number of obstacles. AUDUS promises and is determined to continue its efforts of making KSU a home of outstanding academician in future too.

An active member of several national and international scientific research committees and with a cosmopolitan attitude Dr Attas dreams of making all his research labs into state-of-the-art facilities on par with global standards. Making AUDUS an ISO 9001-2008 certified unit and expanding its presence not only in Middle East but also into the other parts of the world. Cementing all the research labs with highly acclaimed scientist and engaging them into latest research activities among others are his future goals for which he is striving hard.