



## Press Release

### Young Arab scientists discovered a new method of CoVid 19 isolation

Despite limitations and challenges in many Middle Eastern countries because of the ongoing conflicts, the political instability and limitation of resources, motivated Arab scientists have stepped up and developed and piloted a new local assay for testing COVID-19.

COVID 19 has leveled the playing field. We are all equal, more or less, in the eyes of the coronavirus. This realization manifested in the shared suffering, shutdowns, has made people around the world feel we are in this together.

Two Jordanian scientists, Dr. Walid Al-Zyoud from the German Jordan University and Mr. Hazem Haddad from the Jordan university for science and technology, were able to design and develop a novel method of RNA extraction from coronavirus that does not depend on regular commercial columns. They tested their method at the national laboratories of the Ministry of Health in Jordan. This is great news for middle income country such as Jordan will limited resources and with worldwide shortage of testing kits and equipment in general.

They had spent years acquiring and keeping up with the science.

Good science can be done anywhere. One needs access to knowledge, which today is available online free more so because of the crisis, sound minds, and training. But more importantly, an open, supportive environment for collaboration and freedom to experiment. This last point is what is lacking in many emerging countries. Still, covid 19 was able to provide that missing link because the world cannot afford bureaucracy, or politics and the control of big companies on products such as test kits. These have been set aside even though temporarily, and therefore, we have been allowed a glimpse of the possibilities if humans come together what becomes possible that was previously thought to be impossible.

There were also enabling factors in the country where a local company offered a bus for a mobile molecular biology lab to go around the country so that samples are not damaged while transported to the central lab in the capital Amman. Similar to this endeavour, other Jordanian companies started designing disinfecting instruments, masks, ventilators, and much more. Covid 19 has given us a chance to focus on what made us survive as a species in the first place, collaborating and networking against the challenges imposed by us by other larger animals and environmental hardships.

The Society for Advancement of Science and Technology (SASTA) is a US based non profit organization that focuses on promoting Science and technology in the Arab world.

<http://www.sastaworld.com/>

Rana Dajani, PhD

President of the Society of Science and Technology in the Arab World

University of Richmond, Richmond, VA

Cell phone: +18045514688

Email: [Rdajani@hu.edu.io](mailto:Rdajani@hu.edu.io)