



### **Call for University's Scientific Expertise**

Pursuant to its statutory missions in terms of scientific research, the university shall contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. In order to fulfill this noble mission, research themes tackled must not only be in line with the needs of society, but it is also called upon to guarantee the technological transfer of the results to the socio-economic environment.

In recent months, the appearance of the new corona virus SARS-CoV-2, which led to COVID-19, has caused a pandemic of unprecedented proportions. To face this health crisis affecting the whole world, researchers from all scientific fields and disciplines are called upon to help find appropriate solutions.

Since March 12, the date higher education institutions in our country have been closed (Statement of the MHESR), the management of our university has been in open meetings and remains mobilized on a daily basis to adapt to the situation (distance learning, functioning of the administration, ...). In addition, the management staff has studied the best ways for our institution to contribute to the national effort to fight against this pandemic.

Furthermore, we would like to express to our university hospital colleagues our respectful recognition as well as our continued admiration for their efforts in leading the fight against corona virus.

Given the urgency of the situation, it was considered that Ferhat Abbas University's contribution would focus primarily on prevention. Indeed, over the past two months, several actions and activities have been carried out to fight against this pandemic. For instance, we mention the following:

- Production of more than 32,000 bottles (all capacities) of hydro-alcoholic solution and gel by the Galenic Laboratory (Med School) according to the standards of the World Health Organization (WHO). The entire quantity produced is distributed for free to various organizations in different Provinces (Wilayas).
- Manufacture and distribution of more than 10,000 visors of different types to health structures and bodies (university staff).
- Design and manufacture of ICU masks adapters for the benefit of several ICUs in the region (Institute of Optics and Precision Mechanics)
- Active participation of the University of Sétif 1, Sétif Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies Research Unit and the Research Center in Industrial Technology (CRTI), under the auspices of the Directorate-General for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT) and the Ministry of Industry, in the design and manufacture of a standard disinfection booth. It will be delivered from UFAS in the near future and will be produced on an industrial scale by two public companies in the east and west of the country.
- Following the call for national expertise launched last March by the Ministry of Higher Education for the production of Quercetin and Hydroxychloroquine, a team of researchers from our university (Faculty of

Natural and Life Sciences) has just succeeded in producing it from a local plant. The detailed results will be released in a few days.

- For several weeks now, a team of professor-researchers from the Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences has been working on the synthesis of ethanol from local raw materials. The initial results are very conclusive.

- A multidisciplinary team of professor-researchers (Emerging Materials Research Unit and Department of Electrical Engineering) is working on the manufacture of a high-voltage ceramic dielectric capacitor. This element will be the ozone-producing source in the ozone disinfectant whose project is currently under way: a consortium between the Ministry of Industry (through the GACU group) and the DGRSDT (Sétif 1 and Sidi Bel Abbès Universities).

- Colleagues from the Faculty of Economics, Commerce and Management Sciences are contributing with the preparation of a detailed study on the economic consequences of the corona virus pandemic (during and after the crisis) on the world economy in general and the Algerian economy in particular. The first section is dedicated to the effects, while the second is reserved for the strategies proposed for the different situations. This work will be published in a special issue of the Faculty's scientific journal.

- Another project is currently under way, namely the design and manufacture of a new quadruple-function mask (antibacterial, antiviral, anti-pollution and anti-odor). This is a collaborative work between the university (Institute of Optics and Precision Mechanics, Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences, Emerging Materials Research Unit) and the Nanoscience and nanotechnologies Research Unit. The work is progressing at a very encouraging pace.

These few emergency actions carried out in the current context of the health crisis are only a small example of the capabilities available at our mainly scientific and technological university.

We are convinced that Ferhat Abbas Sétif University is in a position to take up many challenges not only during this COVID-19 pandemic but especially in post corona virus period. This can be achieved mainly by combining strategies of fight and collective participation, in particular:

- Federation of proven scientific competencies of Ferhat Abbas Sétif University;
- Pooling of technical resources available in laboratories;
- Adequacy of research activities with the opportunities offered by the socio-economic environment.

To this end and following the recommendations of the Board of Directors meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020 from 10 am to 5 pm, we launch a call for participation to all the scientific experts of the university in order to broaden and diversify this research momentum useful to society to which we are all indebted.

We are collecting all ideas or projects aimed at the innovation, improvement or development of a product or process for a national technological or material integration. A committee of local experts will be set up to validate the proposals. The university will meet the required conditions and will accompany the project leaders until the realization and valorization of their projects.

Proposals must be submitted in duplicate (paper and electronic versions). The document must essentially include the following points:

- Title of the project,
- Purpose and usefulness of the project,

- Description of the product concerned (technical characteristics, operation, local availability of materials, cost estimate...),
- Timetable for project implementation and resource requirements (equipment, consumables...).

Proposals are sent according to your choice to:

- The Vice-rector in charge of research (Email: [mhamidouche@univ-setif.dz](mailto:mhamidouche@univ-setif.dz))
- The Vice-Dean of your faculty or the Deputy Director of your institute.
- The Director of your laboratory.

For the university to ensure its civic responsibility, the civic commitment of its human resources is mandatory.

Sétif, on May 10, 2020

The Rector