

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Bilal A. Azakir



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Sex Male | Date of birth 07/07/1981 | Nationality Lebanese

EDUCATION:

2008: PhD in Biological Sciences, University of Montreal

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada, Prof. Annie Angers. Title of PhD Thesis: Identification and role of the ubiquitin-ligase Itch/AIP4 in cell growth and apoptosis

2004: DEA in Biochemistry, University of Claude Bernard Lyon I

Cellular and Molecular Radiobiology Laboratory, University of Claude Bernard Lyon 1, Lyon, France, Prof. Claire Rodriguez-Lafrasse. Subject: Molecular mechanisms involved in radioresistance of leukemic cells expressing the protein Bcl-2

2003: Master in Biochemistry

Lebanese University Fanar, Campus, Lebanon

2002: Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry

Lebanese University Fanar, Campus, Lebanon.

1999: Lebanese Baccalaureate in Sciences

WORK EXPERIENCE:

2014- : Assistant Professor Medical Biochemistry

Faculty of Medicine, Beirut Arab University, Beirut , Lebanon

2009-2014: Associate researcher- Neurosciences

Subject: Development of treatment strategies for neuromuscular disorders

Neuromuscular Research centre, University hospital Basel

2008-2009: Postdoctoral Fellow- Neurosciences

Subject: Biochemical identification of dysferlin binding partners.

Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Prof. Dr. Michael Sinnreich

PUBLICATIONS:

- Abou Dargham N., Sultan Y., Mourad O., Baidoun M, Aboul Hosn O., Abou El Naga A., Bahmad H., Azakir B. Perception of Biostatistics by Lebanese Medical Students: A Cross-Sectional Study. Alexandria Journal of Medicine. Volume 57, 2021 - Issue 1
- Zaarour, R.F.; Azakir, B.; Hajam, E.Y.; Nawafleh, H.; Zeinelabdin, N.A.; Engelsens, A.S.T.; Thiery, J.; Jamora, C.; Chouaib, S. Role of Hypoxia-Mediated Autophagy in Tumor Cell Death and Survival. Cancers 2021, 13, 533.
- Azakir, B., Mobarak, H., Al Najjar, S. et al. Knowledge and attitudes of physicians toward research ethics and scientific misconduct in Lebanon. BMC Med Ethics 21, 39 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-020-00475-5>
- Iktimal Alwan, Nada Annous, Tasnim Diab, Mounir Barak4, Raneem Bizri, Mohamad Hourii, Bilal Azakir. Factors Affecting Patient Compliance to Physician Advice among Lebanese Internet Users. Journal of clinical and diagnostic 2020, 14 Issue : 06
- Hisham F. Bahmad, Eman Saleh, Azza Abou-El-Naga, and Bilal Azakir, Estimation of Stature from Hand Anthropometric Measurements in the Adult Lebanese Population Journal of Forensic Identification, 2020, Volume 70, Issue 1, Page 125
- Rima Hammoud, Sirine Saleh, Doha Halawani, Hayat Mezher, Azza Abou El Naga & Bilal Azakir (2020) Knowledge and attitudes of Lebanese women of childbearing age towards emergency contraception, The European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care, 25:1, 28-32,
- B Azakir, A Safar, G Abou Daher and A Abou El Naga, Dietary supplements consumption among sportsmen in Lebanon, BAU journal, 2018.
- Al Kassar M, Azakir B. Research ethics governance in the Arabic region:Lebanon. © Springer International Publishing AG 2017 245 H. Silverman, Research Ethics in the Arab Region, Research Ethics Forum 5.
- Azakir B.A, Di Fulvio,S, Therrien C, Sinnreich M. Dysferlin interacts with tubulin and microtubules in mouse skeletal muscle, 2010, PLoS One, Volume 5, Issue 4 .

- Azakir B.A, Desrochers G., Angers A. The ubiquitin ligase Itch mediates the antiapoptotic activity of EGF by promoting tBid ubiquitylation and degradation, 2010, FEBS Journal 277 1319–1330.
- Azakir B.A, Angers A. Reciprocal regulation of the ubiquitin ligase Itch and the epidermal growth factor receptor signalling, Cell Signal. 2009 Aug; 21(8):1326-36.
- Rania Mouchantaf†, Bilal A. Azakir†, Peter S. McPherson, Susan M. Millard, Stephen A. Wood, Annie Angers. The Ubiquitin Ligase Itch is Auto-ubiquitylated In Vivo and In Vitro But Is Protected From Degradation By Interacting With The Deubiquitylating Enzyme FAM/USP9X, J Bio Chem. 2006 Dec 15;281(50):38738-47.† Co-auteur.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:

- UNESCO Award to organize webinars on Bioethics
- CNRS-BAU joint Grant 2018
- Full scholarship: MERETI program for research ethics, University of Maryland
- Gebert Ruef Stiftung, Basel (April 2012- August 2014), Co-Principal Investigator.
- Nachwuchs-Förderungs-Stipendium Basel University (April 2010-April 2011).
- Centre of Excellence in Commercialization and Research Fellowship (CECR), McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 2008-2009
- Quebec Merit Scholarship for Foreign Students (PBEEE), University of Montreal, Canada, 2005-2008
- Fonds de bourses en sciences biologiques (FASEB) fellowship, University of Montreal, 2006
- Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) travel fellowship, 2007

TRAININGS AND ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS:

- Organizing several Bioethics seminars and workshops in National and regional level
- ETTC, UNESCO, coordination meeting: Knowledge platform among ETTC University partners and Alumni, Lebanon, 2019
- Ethics of Research Involving Human Subjects and Biological Samples, USEK, Lebanon, 2019
- Quatrième Colloque National de Bioéthique et Première Réunion de Réflexion sur l’Ethique en Méditerranée, Morocco, 2018
- Research ethics workshop, 2017, University of Maryland, MERETI program
- Medical Ethics Professors Training Course (ETTC), 2016, UNESCO
- Second Lebanese American University International Conference on Medical Education , 2015, LAU Byblos campus.
- Certificate in Laboratory Animal sciences from the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) 2011
- Certificate in Persons responsible for directing Animal experiments from the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) 2012
- Four workshops in research ethics at the University Lyon I, University of Montreal, McGill University and University of Basel (From 2004 to 2010)
- Founder member of ‘‘Group de reflexion sur l’Ethic Medical en Mediterranee’’
- Member of Institution Review Board of Beirut Arab University and Makassed General Hospital

TEACHING AND RESEARCH TRAINEES MONITORING

- Hajar Kaarali, Postdoctoral fellow, Beirut Arab University
- Fatima Sbeity and Mariam Ayash, Master Students, Beirut Arab UNiversity
- Amal Naous, Master Student, Faculty of medicine, Beirut Arab University
- Sabrina Di Fulvio, PhD thesis, Neurobiology, University of Basel.
- Marielle Brockhoff, PhD thesis, Neurobiology, University of Basel.
- Guillaume Desrochers, Master thesis, Biomedical Sciences, University of Montreal
- Anne Jacquet, Hery Ratsima, Charles-Étienne LebertGhali, Milagros Gonzales, Thanh Tien Tran and Yuliya Skorokhod.
Undergraduate, Honour projects, University of Montreal.
- Teaching assistant for the following courses: Molecular biology, cell biology and genetics at the University of Montreal for Biomedical sciences, medical sciences, biological sciences student.

CONFERENCES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Beyond Ethics teacher training, 2019, UNESCO, Lebanon
- UNESCO and the Lebanese National Consultative committee on Ethics of research involving Human Subjects and Bio samples , 2019, Beirut, Lebanon (Oral presentation)
- GREM second conference, 2019 , Tripoli, Lebanon
- Urban Health and well being building collaborative intelligence of better lives in cities, 2018, Beirut Arab University, Beirut, Lebanon (Oral presentation)
- Being professor in Medical Ethics, 2018, Casablanca, Morocco (Foundation of GREM)
- The XIII Makassed Medical Congress, 2018, Beirut, Lebanon (Oral presentation and Moderator).
- 48th Middle East Medical Assembly, 2017, AUB, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 5th world conference on Research integrity, 2017, Amsterdam, Netherland.
- 47th Middle East Medical Assembly, 2016, AUB, Beirut, Lebanon.
- The XII Makassed Medical Congress, 2016, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 22nd Scientific international conference: The social Avenues of the research, 2016, USEK, Lebanon (oral presentation)
- The XI Makassed Medical Congress, 2014, Beirut, Lebanon.
- 21st International scientific committee Horizon 2020, 2015, USJ, Lebanon
- Ethics teacher training course, 2016, UNESCO, Lebanon
- ACMEL's First Summit: Faculty development, 2014, USJ, Lebanon
- B.A Azakir, Marielle Brockhoff, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich. (2012) Proteasomal inhibition restores biological function of mis-sense mutated dysferlin. Second Ubiquitin research and drug discovery conference, Las Vegas, USA.
- B.A Azakir, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich. (May 2011) Therapeutic potential of proteasomal inhibition in dysferlinopathies with missense mutations. Myology, Lille, France.
- S Di Fulvio, B.A Azakir, Therrien C. and M Sinnreich (May 2011) Dysferlin interacts with HDAC6 and regulates myogenesis. Myology, Lille, France.
- B. A Azakir, B Erne, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich . Dysferlin interacts with alpha-tubulin in skeletal muscle. July 17- 21, 2010. Naples, Italy.
- B. A Azakir, B Erne, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich. (July 2010) A sarcolemmal wounding assay to study membrane resealing in cultured dysferlin-deficient human myoblasts. Naples, Italy.
- B. A Azakir, B Erne, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich. (November 2010) A sarcolemmal wounding assay to study membrane resealing in cultured dysferlin-deficient human myoblasts. Magglingen, Switzerland
- Azakir B.A., Therrien C. and Sinnreich M. (2009) Dysferlin interacts with alpha-tubulin in skeletal muscle. FEBS meeting, Prague.
- Azakir B.A, Di Fulvio S, Therrein C. (2009) Dysferlin interacts with alpha-tubulin in skeletal muscle. FEBS, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Azakir B.A, Di Fulvio S, Therrein C. (2009) Dysferlin interacts with alpha-tubulin in skeletal muscle. Boston, USA
- Azakir B.A, Desrochers G., Angers A. (december 2008) The ubiquitin ligase Itch protects cells from apoptosis by promoting tBid ubiquitylation and proteasomal degradation, The American Society for Cell Biology, San Francisco (invited speaker).
- Desrochers G, Azakir B.A and Angers A (2008) EGF receptor signaling influences endocytosis through the regulation of the activity of the ubiquitin ligase Itch. FASEB, Vermont.
- Azakir B.A, Angers A (2007) Activation of the ubiquitin ligase Itch following treatment with the epidermal growth factor (EGF). Poster. Federation of European Biochemical Societes (FEBS), Vienna. Sponsored by the FEBS travel fellowship.
- Azakir B.A, Mouchantaf R., Angers A, (2007) La protease FAM régule la ligase de l'ubiquitine Itch, ACFAS, Trois-rivières (oral presentation).
- Angers, A., Azakir, B.A., Mouchantaf, R., Wong, R., Cross Regulation between the ubiquitin ligase itch and the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR). (2006) Oral presentation Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Summer Research Conference .
- Azakir B.A, Angers A. (2006), Relationship between Phosphorylation and Ubiquitination. McGill University, Canada.
- Azakir B.A, Angers A. (2005) Regulation of the ubiquitin ligase Itch by the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR). The American Society for Cell Biology, San Francisco. USA.
- Mouchantaf R, Azakir B.A, McPherson PS, Wood SA, Angers A (2005) The ubiquitin ligase Itch binds and is regulated by the ubiquitin protease FAM. The American Society for Cell Biology, San Francisco, USA.

