

SOUMAYA MUSTAFA HIJAZI, PhD

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Current Position: Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Microbiology

Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University (BAU)

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Nationality: Lebanese

Date of Birth: 25 July 1980

Research Profiles:

ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Soumaya_Hijazi

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=lyEY4FUAAAAJ>

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2225-1033>

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Microbiology with more than twenty years of experience in higher education, microbiological research, pharmaceutical practice, and drug quality control. Her research focuses on antimicrobial resistance, epidemiology of bacterial pathogens, clinical microbiology, and the discovery of novel antimicrobial agents from environmental microorganisms. She has published in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals, serves as reviewer for leading scientific journals, and actively contributes to public health awareness and antimicrobial stewardship initiatives at national and international levels.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Microbiology

Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University
2021 – Present

Main Responsibilities:

- Course coordination and delivery of undergraduate and postgraduate courses
- Development of laboratory manuals and practical sessions
- Supervision of student research projects
- Academic advising and curriculum development
- Research activities in antimicrobial resistance and drug discovery

Courses Coordinated and Delivered:

Faculty of Pharmacy

- Pharmaceutical Microbiology I
- Pharmaceutical Microbiology II
- Medical Microbiology
- Antibiotics And Chemotherapy (Postgraduate)
- Medical Bacteriology (Postgraduate)

Faculty of Dentistry

- Microbiology and Immunology
- Applied Microbiology and Infection Control
- Microbiology, Immunology and Biochemistry (Postgraduate)

Faculty of Health Sciences

- Medical Parasitology

Teaching Assistant and Laboratory Instructor

Beirut Arab University
2003 – 2021

Teaching responsibilities across:

Faculty of Pharmacy

- Pharmaceutical Microbiology
- Medical Microbiology
- Immunology and Virology
- Microbial Quality Control of Drugs
- Pathology
- Parasitology
- Zoology
- Pharmaceutical Botany

Faculty of Dentistry

- General Bacteriology-General Virology-General Mycology

Faculty of Medicine

- Medical Microbiology (Infectious Diseases)
- Immunology and Virology

Faculty of Health Sciences

- Introduction to Microbiology Laboratory
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General Manager and Pharmacy Owner

Al-Amine Pharmacy, Lebanon

2010 – Present

Responsibilities:

- Pharmacy management
 - Staff recruitment and training
 - Patient counseling
 - Infection control implementation
 - Student training and mentorship
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Pharmacy Manager

Al-Moustafa Pharmacy, Lebanon

2003 – 2007

Microbiological Drug Testing Specialist

Drug Quality Control Laboratory (DQCL)
Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University
2022 – Present
Activities:

- Sterility testing
- Microbial limit testing
- Preservative challenge testing
- Pharmaceutical microbiological quality assurance

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Microbiology

Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University

2008 – 2016

Dissertation:

"Study of the Prevalence of Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase Producing Gram-Negative Bacilli in Lebanese Pediatric Community"

Master of Science (MS) in Microbiology

Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University

2004 – 2008

Dissertation:

"Prevalence of *Staphylococcus aureus* Nasal Colonization in Lebanon"

Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy

Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University

1998 – 2003

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH

American University of Beirut (AUB)

2019 – 2021

Drug Discovery Research

Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology and Microbiology

Faculty of Medicine

Center for Infectious Diseases Research / WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research on Bacterial Pathogens

American University of Beirut (AUB)

2018 – 2019

Microbiology Laboratory

Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences /

Research on molecular epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024

Second Place Winner - WHO EMRO Antimicrobial Resistance Competition

"Tackling the Misuse and Overuse of Antibiotics in the Eastern Mediterranean Region"

MEDIA AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

2023

Television Interview on Novel Malaria Control Strategies

Discussion focused on:

- Genetically modified mosquitoes in malaria control
- Benefits and limitations of genetic vector control
- Public participation in malaria prevention
- Public health implications of emerging technologies

Media Interview:

https://youtu.be/LE06zm_bZ6A

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2026

Hijazi, S., Domiati, S., Al Halabi, K., Ayash, Z., El Charif, M., Maatouk, B., & Rahme, D.

Erosion of empirical therapy: A multi-regional cross-sectional study of antimicrobial resistance in community-acquired urinary tract infections in Lebanon.

International Journal of Infectious Diseases, Volume 170, Article 108828. Q1 Journal; Top 10 percentile journal

DOI: 10.1016/j.ijid.2026.108828

Abdul Majid, G., El Lakany, A., Aboul-Ela, M., **Hijazi, S.**, & Hijazi, M. A.

Phytochemical and Antibacterial Study of *Juniperus chinensis* and *Juniperus conferta* Growing in Lebanon.

Current Bioactive Compounds

Article ID: e15734072440831

DOI: 10.2174/0115734072440831260326052821

2025

Rahme, D., Al Mordaa, B., **Hijazi, S.**, & Domiati, S. (2025).

Combatting antimicrobial resistance amidst the era of economic crisis: Public perceptions and antibiotic practices in Lebanon.

Journal of Public Health Research.

DOI: 10.1177/22799036251388586

Kanso, M. A., **Hijazi, S. M.**, El-Lakany, A., Aboul-Ela, M., & Hijazi, M. A. (2025).

Phytochemical Investigation and Antimicrobial Activity of *Galium libanoticum*.

Infectious Disorders – Drug Targets.

ISSN (Print): 1871-5265

ISSN (Online): 2212-3989

2023

Abla, K. K., **Hijazi, S. M.**, & Mehanna, M. M. (2023).

Augmented efficiency of azithromycin for MRSA ocular infections management: limonene-based nanostructured lipid carriers in-situ gel approach.

Journal of Drug Delivery Science and Technology. Q1 journal, I.F 5.06

ISSN: 1773-2247

2016

Hijazi, S. M., Fawzi, M. A., Ali, F. M., & Abd El Galil, K. H. (2016).

Prevalence and characterization of extended-spectrum beta-lactamases producing Enterobacteriaceae in healthy children and associated risk factors.

Annals of Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobials, 15(3).

DOI: 10.1186/s12941-016-0121-9. ISSN: 1476-0711

Hijazi, S. M., Fawzi, M. A., Ali, F. M., & Abd El Galil, K. H. (2016).

Multidrug-resistant ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae and associated risk factors in community infants in Lebanon.

Journal of Infection in Developing Countries, 10(9), 947–955.

DOI: 10.3855/jidc.7593. ISSN: 1972-2680

2010

Halablab, M. A., **Hijazi, S. M.,** Fawzi, M. A., & Araj, G. F. (2010).

Staphylococcus aureus nasal carriage rate and associated risk factors in individuals in the community.

Epidemiology and Infection, 138(5), 702–706.

DOI: 10.1017/S0950268809991233

ISSN: 0950-2688

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

2025

Abla, K., Domiati, S., Mhanna, R., Faraj, M., & **Hijazi, S.**

Clindamycin-loaded cinnamaldehyde-based nanostructured lipid carriers: A potential platform to treat MRSA skin infection.

1st International Electronic Conference on Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutics.

Organized by MDPI Journals Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutics.

2022

Abla, K. K., **Hijazi, S. M.**, & Mehanna, M. M.

Limonene-based Nanostructured Lipid Carriers Azithromycin-loaded In-situ Gel: Potential Platform to Overcome Clinically Isolated Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus Ocular Infection.

2nd International Conference and Exhibition on Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences (PHS 2022).

Alexandria, Egypt.

2018

Hijazi, S. M.

Gut Microbiota as a New Treatment Target.

First International Conference on Modern Trends in Medical and Health Sciences.

Istanbul, Türkiye.

2014

Hijazi, S. M.

Prevalence and Molecular Characterization of Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae in Lebanese Pediatric Community.

17th Scientific Congress of the Association of Pharmacy Colleges in the Arab World.

Ain Shams University, Egypt.

INVITED LECTURES AND WEBINARS

2025

Breaking the Silence: Understanding Neglected Tropical Diseases

Speaker at International Educational Webinar for Pharmacy Students and Healthcare Professionals.

Organized by international pharmacy associations from Tunisia, Indonesia, Germany, United Kingdom, Romania, Lebanon, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

2018

Microbiota and Emerging Role of Prebiotics, Probiotics and Symbiotic

Speaker at Order of Pharmacists of Lebanon OPL.

Continuing Professional Development Program.

Accredited Activity (1 Credit)

PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for:

- PLOS One
 - BMJ Global Health
 - Scientific Reports
 - BMC Infectious Diseases
 - Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy
 - Microbiology Open
 - European Journal of Pediatrics
 - Journal of Infection and Public Health
 - Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition
 - Annual Research & Review in Biology
 - Journal of Antibiotics
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ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Head of Library Committee

Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University
2021 – Present

Trustee of Faculty Council

Faculty of Pharmacy, Beirut Arab University
2021 – 2024 2026- Present

National Pharmacists Colloquium Examination Committee

Ministry of Education and Higher Education
2024 – 2026

National Examination Committee for Pharmacists

Ministry of Education and Higher Education
2012 – 2014

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Order of Pharmacists of Lebanon OPL Community Pharmacy

Annual Portfolio Group: reviewing and managing the organization's portfolio of activities, continuing education webinars, projects, informational posts and carousel to pharmacist and population on opl platforms on an monthly basis.

Good Pharmacy Practice GPP Guidelines committee: group responsible for developing, reviewing, updating, and promoting guidelines for good pharmacy practice. To strengthening Good Pharmacy Practice GPP in Lebanon, Enhancing Quality, Safety, and Patient-centered Care

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Pharmaceutical, Clinical, and Molecular Microbiology

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- DNA extraction
- DNA quantification
- Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) analysis
- Antimicrobial susceptibility testing
- MIC and MBC determination
- Biofilm formation and inhibition assays
- Microbial isolation and identification
- Sterility testing
- Microbial limit testing
- Preservative challenge testing
- Pharmaceutical quality control

Drug Discovery

- Isolation of environmental Actinomycetes
- Screening for antimicrobial activity
- Novel antimicrobial compound discovery

RESEARCH KEYWORDS

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
- Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamases (ESBL)
- Enterobacteriaceae
- Microbial Colonization/ Epidemiology
- Antimicrobial Agents
- Pharmaceutical Microbiology
- Microbial Quality Control
- Community Health
- Children's Infectious Diseases
- Public Health

CURRENT RESEARCH PROGRAM

Current research focuses on:

- Surveillance of antimicrobial resistance genes circulating in Lebanese communities.
- Molecular characterization of resistant bacterial pathogens.
- Discovery of novel antimicrobial compounds from environmental Actinomycetes isolated from Lebanese soil.
- Investigation of microbiota-host interactions and their therapeutic implications.
- Community awareness and stewardship interventions targeting antimicrobial resistance.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Selected International and Local Training and Workshops

2026

- Resources from International Organizations, including UNESCO, for Human-Centered AI. Organized by the University Pedagogical Mission of USJ, in collaboration with the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO and with the support of the UNESCO Regional Office
- Impact of 3D and 4D Printing on Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Sciences, FIP Digital Event
- Rethinking the Design of Students' Research Work in Lebanese Universities in the Era of AI. Organized by the University Pedagogical Mission of USJ, in collaboration with the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO and with the support of the UNESCO Regional Office
- Advancing Refugee and Migrant Health in countries: Shared experiences, successes, challenges, and the path forward. A side event held during the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly (WHA79)
- Publishing excellence with The Lancet Regional Health – Eastern Mediterranean
- Codex, Claude, And Kimi for work .study; and Life. Association of Arab Universities in collaboration with Abu Dhabi University.

2025

- AI Ethics and Standards: Balancing Universality and Diversity? (UNESCO)
- Geopolitics of Artificial Intelligence and Higher Education (UNESCO)
- AI for Skills Development in Higher Education (UNESCO)

- The Route to Become a Grant Hunter (Beirut Arab University)
- Communication and Presentation Skills for Academic Excellence (BAU)
- Towards a Fair Research Environment: Responsible Scientific Evaluation (Association of Arab Universities)
- World Patient Safety Day: Empowering Pharmacists for Safer Medication in Pediatric and Newborn Care (FIP)
- Promise of Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Practice (FIP)
- War, Wounds and Resistance: Antimicrobial Resistance in Gaza Healthcare Crisis (WHO EMRO)

2024

- United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance
- Fifth Global School on Refugee and Migrant Health
- Pharmacy Practice Research Summer Meeting
- Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Resilience in Humanitarian Crises
- Vaccination Services in Pharmacy
- Team-Based Learning Workshop
- Community-Engaged Learning Workshop

2023

- Developing Scientific Publications Ethically in the Era of Generative AI

2022

- Therapeutic Advances Against COVID-19
- Vaccines and Special-Risk Groups
- Health and Self-Care Literacy

2021

- Pharmacist Essential Role in Supporting Patients with Multiple Sclerosis

2020

- Influenza Vaccination During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2019

- Pharmacy Animation Training Program
- Mersaco Pharmacy Academy

2016

- The Five Choices to Extraordinary Productivity

2014

- Enhancement of Staff Members' Teaching Skills Program

Beirut Arab University

Completed workshops in:

- Effective Teaching Strategies
- Curriculum Design
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Student Learning Enhancement
- Classroom Management

UNDERGRADUATE CLINICAL TRAINING

Hammoud University Hospital

Hospital Pharmacy Training

June 2001 – July 2001

Makassed Hospital and Dar Al Ajaza Al Islamia

Clinical Pharmacy Clerkship

October 2002 – May 2003

DIGITAL SKILLS

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Adobe Photoshop
- SoftPharm
- Internet-based research platforms

Statistical Software

- MINITAB
- MegaStat

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Arabic: Native

English: Fluent (Reading, Writing, Speaking)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.