
WORK EXPERIENCE

2022 (Oct) – Present: Lecturer at the College of Pharmacy, Al-Ayen University, Nasiriyah, Iraq.

❖ **Dean's Assistant for Administrative Affairs (College of Pharmacy)**

- Responsible for improving the quality and speed of the administrative affairs performed at the college.
- President of four internal faculty committees, including laboratory supervision, students' absences...etc, and a member of another two committees, including the examination committee in which I am the keystone.

2020 (May) – 2022 (Sep): Assistant Director of Molecular and Cellular Biology (Laboratory) at Hammoud Hospital University Medical Center, Saida, Lebanon — In-charge of SARS-CoV-2 RT-qPCR testing.

- Perform high-complexity testing with great levels of accuracy and understanding, and establish the test performance characteristics, including specificity and sensitivity.
- Analyse test results, maintain analysis records, and report collected data and generated statistics to the laboratory physician.
- Responsible for improving and maintaining the quality of the work and that of the results obtained in the laboratory's molecular and cellular division.
- Identify technical issues and troubleshoot to minimise the number and criticalness of future problems.
- Develop the workflow and habits in the division to improve the work output through the guidance and approval of the laboratory physician.
- Test and evaluate new supplies, equipment, and test procedures to ensure operability in the division.
- Keep track of and maintain the available number of reagents, media and supplies in the division.
- Ensure that the division's staff workers master all the division's procedures in compliance with the employee competency-based orientation (CBO).

2016 (Oct) – 2018 (Aug) (contract): Laboratory Demonstrator for Biomedical and Molecular Sciences Research MSc/MRes students at King's College London, London, United Kingdom.

- 7BBBM106: Advanced Biosciences Research Laboratory Techniques

2016 (Oct) – 2018 (Aug) (contract): Laboratory Demonstrator for BSc students at the Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine at King's College London, London, United Kingdom.

- 4BBY1013: Biochemistry
- 4BBY1020: Chemistry for the Biosciences
- 5BBB0208: Experimental Biochemistry
- 5BBB0214: Human & Molecular Genetics A
- 5BBB0216: Human & Molecular Genetics B
- 5BBB0223: Metabolism
- 5BBB0326: Molecular Biology

2017 (Dec) – 2018 (Jan) (contract): Basic Medical Sciences Tutor for medical students at King's College London, London, United Kingdom.

- 4MMBS101: Cell Biology and Signalling
- 4MMBS101: Nutrition and Metabolism

EDUCATION

2015 – 2019: PhD in Molecular and Genetic Toxicology at King's College London (Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicine), London, United Kingdom.

- ❖ **Project title:** "Defining the physiological, transcriptomic and genotoxic fingerprints of benzo[a]pyrene exposure in *Caenorhabditis elegans*."
 - The aim of the study was to define the genotoxic potential of benzo[a]pyrene in *C. elegans* and to advance our understanding of xenobiotic processing in the absence of the CYP1A1 pathway which is indirectly responsible in most organisms for the bioactivation of BaP and the formation of DNA adducts. **Some of the main techniques implemented were Next Generation Sequencing (NGS; RNAseq), qPCR, confocal microscopy, Comet assay, and ³²P-postlabelling.**
- **Leadership and Supervision:** I was responsible for the direct mentorship of 2 MSc/MRes and 1 final-year BSc students. I oversaw their laboratory training, organized their experimental schedule, and delegated their tasks daily. I was once also the lead organiser of the department's annual symposium.
- **Expanding Research Interests:** I joined a research team at Diamond Light Source, UK's national synchrotron facility, as part of their molecular study of cerebral ganglion (brain) regeneration in the earthworm.
- **Academic Network:** During my PhD, I have established several connections within academic institutions locally (United Kingdom) and abroad, in Germany and China.

2013 – 2014: MSc in Molecular Diagnostic and Forensic Sciences at the Lebanese University (Faculty of Sciences), Beirut, Lebanon.

- ❖ *Project title:* “The antibiofilm activity of the Lebanese endemic plant *Astragalus sofarensis*.”
- *Networking:* Collaborated with research teams from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon and the Faculty of Medicine at the American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

2012 – 2013: MSc in Animal Biology at the Lebanese University (Faculty of Sciences), Beirut, Lebanon.

- ❖ *Project title:* “Homocysteine and cardiovascular diseases: a public-health challenge.”

2009 – 2012: BSc in Biology: Earth and Life Sciences at the Lebanese University (Faculty of Sciences), Lebanon.

2008 – 2009: Lebanese General Secondary Certificate in Life Sciences at Al-Mustafa High School, Lebanon.

OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS

IT Skills (current average typing speed = 81 words per minute)

- Managing my own website at mustafaabbass.com and online “[omni-presence](#)”
- Technical proficiency in using GraphPad PRISM, COMET IV, MEGA7, ImageJ and Mendeley software
- Excellent proficiency in the daily usage of task, project, and time management software
- Advanced proficiency in using MS Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint
- Amateur proficiency in using several design software

Languages (currently on a >5-year learning streak on Duolingo among other apps)

- English (Full professional proficiency)
- Arabic (Native proficiency)
- French/Spanish (Limited working proficiency)
- Chinese/Japanese/Russian (Elementary proficiency)

Public Speaking

- Science and research-oriented presentations which breaks away from the norm
- Several talks about the effective usage of storytelling through presentations and social media
- Numerous coaching sessions regarding the power of habits, project & time management, and productivity

All my online certificates from Coursera are available upon request (19 various certificates)

An avid reader and reviewer of books and a [Goodreads librarian](#)

Continuously taking a mentor role in King’s College London’s “[Leadership Mentoring Programme](#)”

CONFERENCES AND EXTERNAL-TRAINING

2018 (Apr) I joined a research team at Diamond Light Source, UK’s synchrotron, Didcot, United Kingdom.

2018 (Mar) I gave a presentation at the 46th EEMGS/30th GUM conference, Potsdam, Germany.

2016 (Jun) I had a poster at the 39th Annual UKEMS conference, London, United Kingdom.

PUBLICATIONS (h-index = 4)

2021. Abbass M, Chen Y; Arlt V; Stürzenbaum S. Benzo[a]pyrene and *Caenorhabditis elegans*: defining the genotoxic potential in an organism lacking the classical CYP1A1 pathway. Arch Toxicol. 2021.

2019. Prendergast-Miller MT, Katsiamides A, Abbass M, Sturzenbaum SR, Thorpe KL, Hodson ME. Polyester-derived microfibre impacts on the soil-dwelling earthworm *Lumbricus terrestris*. Environ Pollut. 2019 Aug;251:453-459.

2015. Abbass M, Abiad F, Abbas O. Prurigo Pigmentosa After Bariatric Surgery. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2015 Jul;151(7):796-7.

2014. Chmit M, Kanaan H, Habib J, Abbass M, Mcheik A, Chokr A. Antibacterial and antibiofilm activities of polysaccharides, essential oil, and fatty oil extracted from *Laurus nobilis* growing in Lebanon. *Asian Pac J Trop Med*. 2014 Sep;7S1:S546-52.

REFERENCES

[Pr. Stephen Stürzenbaum](#) Professor of Toxicogenomics at King’s College London, United Kingdom

[Dr. Hassan Kazma](#) Laboratory Chairman at Hammoud Hospital University Medical Center, Lebanon

[Dr. Sarah Kinj](#) External Relations Officer of a number of Iraqi universities including Al-Ayen University, Iraq