



AREF KYYALY



RESEARCH FELLOW
GENETICS, miRNAs

"I love research and finding solutions for problems"

Academic profile

Degree

BSc, Applied Chemistry

Post grad

PhD, Biochemistry

Qualification/achievement you are most proud of

Asthma UK research grant 2019

Subjects you enjoyed at school

Chemistry, Biology

Career Summary

After 5 years experience as a lecturer at Aleppo University, I had to flee from Syria because of the war in 2014. I started my new career in the UK from the University of Nottingham as a research associate for one year then moved to Southampton as a research fellow in 2015. During my journey in the UK I had to change my field of research more than once; I worked in the field of nutrition in Nottingham then gene cloning and protein expression in Southampton and finally, also in Southampton, asthma (epi)genetics and miRNAs. Recently, I achieved a very important step in my career as my idea of research was able to win a £245,000 grant from Asthma UK/Innovate UK to develop a new diagnostic test for asthma diagnosis and severity. This test will be based on specific miRNAs related to asthma and I will be working on this project for the coming three years.

Describe your job



What inspired you?

I love helping others to change the world to a better place. The shining eyes of my students and young people when they learn new things always inspired me. I always wanted to work in science but sometimes I thought I will never be able to do especially during the war in my home country.

Did you know

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small RNAs (Ribonucleic acids) that regulate gene functions.

Top tip

Love, Believe, Achieve... Love what you do, believe in yourself, and you will achieve your aims

Best thing about my job

Beside teaching and conveying knowledge to the new generations, I love the new challenges in science

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