

## Topic 2 : Biology, Biotechnology & Health Sciences



### **Dr Yassine AMRANI**

*Leicester Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit, Glenfield Hospital, Leicester, UK*

Dr Yassine Amrani is an internationally-recognized medical researcher in the field of asthma pathogenesis with expertise in basic and experimental clinical medicine. He obtained his PhD in Respiratory Medicine with the highest honor “summa cum laude” from the University of Strasbourg, France. He is a member of the Institute for Lung Health and Principal Investigator at Leicester Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit at Glenfield Hospital.

Using translational “bench-to-bedside” approaches, Dr Amrani made key discoveries regarding the pathogenesis of severe asthma, a disease poorly controlled by current therapies. Throughout his career, Dr Amrani received over \$6 million worth of research and programme grants (as PI, co-PI and collaborator) from National Institute of Health (US), American Lung Association (US), Parker B. Francis Foundation (US) and Wellcome trust (UK). He received grant awards from various medical foundations: Parker B. Francis Fellowship Award (USA), Association Française pour la Recherche Thérapeutique, Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (Paris, France), Association Claude Bernard and Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (Paris, France). He has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles/reviews in top medical journals and wrote 10 book chapters in pulmonary medicine. His H-index is 38 (scopus). He has delivered over 50 lectures in different Universities and international meetings including American Thoracic Society and American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology. He has served as a chair/member of committee panels for funding bodies (UK, Ireland, USA, France) and is an ad hoc reviewer for > 41 top journals (including Nature Com, Proc Natl Acad Sci USA, J Clin Invest, J Allergy Clin Immunol among others).



### **Pr Ghania BELAALOU**

*MAGECA Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Batna2 University, Batna, DZ*

Pr. Ghania Belaaloui, M.D., Ph.D., is currently the head of the MAGECA laboratory (Laboratory of Acquired and Constitutional Genetic Diseases) which is associated to both the University of Batna 2 and the National Centre for Biotechnology Research (CRBt) in Constantine. She is also a Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Batna in Algeria.

She received her medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine of Batna in 2000 and obtained a franco-Algerian post-graduation scholarship to follow a PhD program in the CRCM (Cancer Research Center of Marseille, France) where she got her Ph.D. degree in Oncology in 2005. From 2006 to 2007, she got other university degrees from the Faculty of Medicine of Marseille: “Genetic Engineering applied to diagnosis & therapeutics” and the “FIEC” (a training program to Investigators on Clinical Trials of Drugs). She worked, in parallel, in Europharma Company (a training provider for the medical and pharmaceutical sector) in Paris, than in Labco Company (An European network of medical analysis laboratories and diagnostic centers) in Brussels.

Prof. Ghania Belaaloui is the holder of the First Sanofi award for Health Research in Algeria, in 2016. She is also a scientific expert at the Thematic Agency of Health Sciences Research (ATRSS) since 2011 and a founding member of the Consultative Committee of Ethics in the (CRBt) since 2014. Ghania Belaaloui is also the author of numerous international publications in Oncology and Genetics.



### **Dr Hind BOUK'HIL**

*Spin Safety®, Rennes, FR*

Dr Hind Bouk'hil was born and raised in Algeria. She received her BS of Physics and her BS in E.E.A. (Electronics Electrotechnics Automatics) from University of Rennes 1 (Rennes, France). She went on to receive a M.Sc. in « Signals and Images in Biology and Medecine » (DEA « SIBM », Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies) during which she specialized in Nuclear Physics applied to Medical Imaging.

During her PhD in « Biological and Medical Engineering », her work focused on the assessment of the contribution of the wave-matter in the characterization of the heating effects on metallic biomaterials in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). Her work was published in renowned international journals.

After her PhD, Dr Bouk'hil created the company Spin Safety®, an innovative high technology company.

Spin Safety® has been very successful for the past 15 years and has been providing expertise in Quality Assessment and Safety in MRI and expertise in Radiation Protection in Odontology. As such, Dr Bouk'hil has been the winner of various Innovation Awards.

For more than 20 years, Dr Bouk'hil has been lecturer in Universities (eg: Sciences, Medical, Odontology) and Institutes in the fields of MRI, XR-Imaging and Radiation Protection.

Since 2006, Dr Bouk'hil has been certified « *Personne Compétente en Radioprotection (PCR)* » for France (eg. RPA& RWA in UK). She has become a reference who offers her expertise to multiple entities (eg: Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire (French Nuclear Safety Agency)), participates in research activities (CHRU de Tours...) and is a member of professional organizations in her field (eg : Réseau PCR Grand Ouest (France)).



**Dr Derradji BOUMRAH**  
*GlaxoSmithKline, Ware, UK*

Boumrah Derradji is currently working at GlaxoSmithKline as a Regulatory Affairs CMC specialist.

Derradji graduated in June 1985 from University of Constantine with a D.E.S in Chemistry. He went on to receive his PhD degree in January 1986 from Strathclyde University, Scotland. In 1991 he received his PhD from the Department of Pure & Applied Chemistry, Strathclyde University, UK.

In January 1990, he started working at the University of Bath, UK, as a Post-doctoral Research Associate, while he was writing up his PhD thesis.

In October 1998, he joined Key Organics Ltd, as Research Chemist. He was involved in the synthesis of Biological active compounds to be tested as Agonist, antagonist and inhibitors.

In May 2000, he joined Evotec OAI, Oxford, UK, as a senior Chemist, where he worked on process chemistry. In October 2001, he joined Biofocus plc, UK, as senior Scientist.

In February 2004 has joined Pfizer, UK. His role involves the development of processes in the lab and transferring them to supply chain (pilot plant) and PGM. Also, has joined the Veterinary Medicine Regulatory Department to acquire skills in Regulatory affairs.

Derradji has experience in Organic/Medicinal Chemistry and process development Chemistry. He is a Regulatory Affairs Professional with experience in the generic and pharmaceutical drugs sectors.



**Pr Nabil BENOUDJIT**  
*LAAAS, Department of Electronics, Batna2 University, Batna, DZ*

Nabil Benoudjit was born in Batna, Algeria in 1967. He obtained the State Engineer degree in electronics in 1991, the M.Sc degree in electronics in 1994 from the University of Sétif, Algeria and the Ph.D degree in applied science from the Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium in 2003. From 1994 to 1999 and from 2004 to 2010, he has been an Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor of electronics at the University of Batna, Algeria, where he has taught signal processing, pattern recognition and machine learning. Since 2011, he has become a Professor of electronics at the University of Batna -2-, Algeria. He is currently the head of the Machine Learning and Data Mining group of the laboratory (LAAAS), Department of electronics, University of Batna -2-. His present research interests are in the area of machine learning applied to biomedical signals, infrared spectrometers and wind speed (classification and regression). He is coauthor of more than 35 scientific publications and is a referee of several international journals and conferences.



**Dr Ahmed CHENNA**  
*Oncology Group, Monogram Biosciences, Inc., Integrated Oncology-LabCorp, Inc., San Francisco, USA*

Dr. Ahmed Chenna is a principal scientist in the oncology group at Monogram Biosciences Inc., part of Laboratory Corporation of America and managed the oncology reagent group. He played a key role in the development and validation of VeraTag™ technology for cancer biomarker products such as Her1, Her2, Her2-Her2 homodimer, P95, Her3, Her3-PI3K, Her2-Her3 heterodimer, and c-met. VeraTag™ technology can accelerate the development of targeted therapeutics, improve clinical trial design and results, clarify and individualize the selection of medications, and optimize outcomes for patients with cancer and other serious diseases. In 1999 to 2004, he worked at ACLARA Biosciences as a senior scientist and lab supervisor in the Advanced Technologies Group, where he was the co-inventor of VeraTag™ technology for gene expression multiplexing up to 50 genes.

In the 1990's, he worked as Staff Scientist in the University of Berkeley-Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Life Science Division, and as a postdoctoral research associate, in *Department of Pharmacological Sciences, School of Medicine, State University of New York at Stony Brook* on DNA damage, repair, and replication. People are exposed daily to environmental chemicals classified as mutagens and/or carcinogens such as vinyl chloride; mucochloric acid from chlorination of drinking water; the widely administered therapeutic halonitrosoureas, e.g. BCNU and benzene metabolites, p-benzoquinone and others which damage DNA. The aim of the work was to

identify and understand the mechanism by which such DNA damage may lead to the biological endpoints, such as mutation and ultimately, cancer. Dr. Chenna was a co-principal investigator of two-awarded NIH sponsored research grants for \$3.2 million.

From 1986 to 1990, he was a Ph.D. Student, Strathclyde University, Glasgow, Scotland, (UK), where he designed and synthesized a series of novel compounds tested for their potential biological activity in Central Nervous System (CNS) and anti-cancer by Organon Laboratories Ltd., UK. Dr. Chenna graduated in 1985 from University of Constantine, Algeria, B.Sc. in chemistry. Dr. Chenna has over 25 years of experience in research, development, supervision of scientists, research associates and graduate students in academia and biotechnology companies.

In 2010, he chaired the scientific committee of the Biotech World Conference, Oran, Algeria and currently serving as a member of the Scientific Board of the Biotechnology Center of Constantine, Algeria and a consultant for Life Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He is a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), served in the board of the Algerian American Association of Northern California (AAA-NC) and a member and one of the founders of the Algerian Competences Association (ACA). Dr. Chenna authored over 70 technical publications & conference abstracts including 13 US patents.



### **Dr Said DERMIME**

*National Center for Cancer Care and Research, Hamad Medical Corporation and College of Health and Life Sciences, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, QA*

Dr. Said Dermime is a highly experienced senior scientist in Cellular Immunology and Cancer Immunotherapy with more than 25 years of expertise in the fields of academia and research. He has also over 10 years of experience in establishing research groups and/or departments. The specific areas of his expertise include mechanisms of immune escape in cancer, tumor antigen-specific immune responses, cancer immunomodulation, and the characterization and expansion of tumor specific T cells in cancer patients. Dr. Said obtained his PhD degree in immunology from Salford University, Manchester, UK in 1992. After on, he joined the National Cancer Institute, Milan, Italy (1992-1994) then the NHLBI, NIH, Bethesda, USA (1995-1997) as postdoctoral fellow. He was a Leader of the lymphoma-cancer vaccine team at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, Manchester then he was appointed as senior scientist to establish and lead the Tumor Immunology Section at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre, Riyadh. In 2015, Dr. Said joined the National Centre for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR) at Hamad Medical Corporation. He is the director of the translational cancer research facility at iTRI-HMC. Dr. Said has in-depth knowledge of designing therapeutic and prophylactic strategies and evaluating them in preclinical and clinical studies where he was able to develop complementary approaches with respect to immunological assays of tumour immunity and cancer vaccines, and has been a major contributor to several scientific discoveries. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles in high impact factor journal such as Blood, Cancer Research, Journal of Immunology, Clinical Cancer Research, Neoplasia, Breast Cancer Research, Frontiers in Immunology, Frontiers in Oncology, Molecular Oncology and Seminar in Cancer Biology.

In this respect, Dr. Said has accomplished many achievements, such as identifying the cause of resistance to the drug retinoic acid in acute leukemia (Blood 1993; 82:1573), discovering a novel leukemia vaccine against proteinase-3 as a target antigen (Blood 1996; 88:2450) and demonstrating that the lymphoma idiotype is a potential cancer vaccine target (Journal of Immunology 2002; 168:3983). He also demonstrated, for the first time, the expression of the PD-L1 inhibitory molecule in breast cancer patients (Neoplasia; 2006; 8:190), showed a direct evidence of PD-L1 induction in breast cancer cells (Int. J Cancer; 2007; 121:751) and the involvement of both PD-L1 and regulatory T cells in the immune escape of breast cancer (BMC Cancer 2008; 8:57). In addition, he was able to discover an antigen-specific regulatory T cell population in leukemia patients (Cancer Research 2008; 68:6350). Very recently, he was able to demonstrate that the presence of anti-NY-ESO-1 integrated immunity and a specific cytokines/chemokines profile may potentially identify a response to PD-1 blockade in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) patients (Front. Immunol. | doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2018.01769).



**Dr Katia DJENADI**  
*UAMB, Béjaïa, DZ*

Dr. Katia DJENADI microbiologist from Bejaia University (UAMB), her major foci is on bacterial ecology, antibiotic resistance genes in different environment and the impact of this multidrug resistance on human health. For her PhD, she gave a major interest on the multidrug resistance phenotype and antibiotic resistance gene flow via mobile genetic elements within Gram negative bacteria from soil and water samples.



**Dr Kamel HAMIZI**  
*Centre de Lutte Contre le Cancer, Batna, DZ*

Dr Hamizi is a Medical Radiotherapist practicing at the Cancer Control Center in Batna where he holds the position of Chief Medical Officer.

Completed his general medicine studies at the Faculty of Medicine of Batna in 1997, then specialized in the field of radiotherapy at the University Hospital of Constantine for 04 years to obtain a degree of medical studies specialized in radiotherapy in 2002.

Alongside his career as a doctor, he is a lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of Batna.

Dr. Hamizi is also an expert consultant in his field with the Ministry of Health; member of several well-known societies (ASTRO American Society of Radiation Oncology, American Brachytherapy Society ABS, SFRO French Society of Radiotherapy Oncology); member of the research laboratories: MAGECA: Laboratory of Acquired and Constitutional Genetic Diseases; HEPAVIR: Laboratory for research on viral hepatitis.



**Dr Lotfi LOUCIF**  
*LBMBPC, Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences, Batna2 University, Batna, DZ*

Lotfi LOUCIF is a lecturer in the faculty of natural and life sciences at the university of Batna 2, Algeria, where he has been a member since 2007. He was recently appointed as director of the research laboratory "Laboratoire de Biotechnologie des Molécules Bioactives et de la Physiopathologie Cellulaire (LBMBPC)". From March 2016 to February 2019, he was the head of department of microbiology and biochemistry in the faculty of natural and life sciences at the university of Batna 2, Algeria.

Lotfi completed his Ph.D. and his undergraduate studies at the university of Annaba, Algeria. His research interests lie in the area of bacterial resistance to antibiotic compounds. He is interested in identifying every potential reservoir and/or dissemination route of antibiotic resistant bacteria as well as searching for new antimicrobial molecules effective against these latter especially from microbial origins.



**Pr Taha MERGHOUB**  
*Melanoma and Immunotherapeutics Service, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center - New York, USA*

Taha Merghoub, PhD was born and raised in Algeria. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Algiers, Algeria, DES (Diplôme D'Etudes Supérieures) in Genetics. He went on to receive a M.S. (Applied Biology and Genetics) and Ph.D. degree (Human Genetics). He is currently faculty (Attending Lab Member) in the Melanoma and Immunotherapeutics Service, Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), New York, USA. He is the co-director of the Ludwig collaborative laboratory at MSK. He is also the lead for the tissue repository of the Melanoma disease management team at MSKCC and he is a Member Researcher of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy at MSK.

His research focuses on the interplay between tumors and the immune system in early stages of cancer formation, and the development of novel immunotherapeutic treatment strategies with particular focus on melanoma as a model system. The FDA has approved multiple immune therapies recently (anti-CTLA-4, anti-PD1/PDL-1 and T-VEC) and he is now aiming to combine these treatments with conventional therapies that are known to modulate the immune system such as radiation therapy. He also has interest in studying the genetic determinants of response to immune therapies. His career is focused on developing immunotherapies for the treatment of cancer. He has been working on pre-clinical model and validating the relevance of the findings in clinical samples of patients treated with immunotherapies. His research is conducted within the Ludwig Collaborative and Swim Across America lab and in partnership with members of the Melanoma DMT and other MSK investigators with shared research interests. Dr. Merghoub has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and book-chapters. His research has also received funding from several federal agencies and philanthropic organizations.



Taha Merghoub is involved in multiple organizations and some of them aim at helping Algerians both here in USA and in Algeria. He served in multiple associations (including AAF, AASA, ACA and the Harlem Children Society) that aim to help Algerian students, scientists and health professional.



**Pr Abdelkrim SI BACHIR**

*Ecology & Environment Department, Batna2 University, Batna, DZ*

Currently professor and head of “Ecology & Environment” department in the Batna 2 University (Algeria). PhD in Biological Sciences (Setif University, Algeria - 2007); PhD in Ecology and Evolution (Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse III, France - 2005); Magister in Animal Biology (University of Setif, Algeria – 1991); High Studies Diploma in Animal Biology (DES, University of Batna, Algeria – 1986).

He has taught and directed several national and international research projects in the universities of Batna, Bejaia and Toulouse. Visiting professor (2010) and sabbatical year (2015 - 2016) at the Laboratory of Functional Ecology “EcoLab” (Toulouse III University – France). International technical expert in wetlands (UN/UNOPS: Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands, Arles, France, 2001-2003). Member of the Algerian national commission for the protection of endangered animal species. Treasurer of the Algerian National Association of Ornithology “ANAO” since August 2013. President of the scientific and environmental association “Biology, Biodiversity and Sustainability” (University Batna 2, Algeria). President of the scientific council of the Belezma National Park (Biosphere reserve), since June 2014.

The work of Dr. SI BACHIR is located at the research/conservation interface, based on data from research and academic training, on the one hand, and on the socio-economic activities and civil society organizations, on the other hand. He has published several studies on entomology, ornithology, ichthyology, parasitology, organized national and international meetings on biodiversity, life quality, biological control of pests, ....



**Dr Zoubir OUHIB**

*Lynn Cancer Institute, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, USA*

Zoubir Ouhib is currently the chief Medical Physicist at the Lynn Cancer Institute of Boca Raton Regional Hospital located in Boca Raton, Florida (USA). He is an Assistant Professor at the Florida Atlantic University at the department of Medical Physics.

He is board certified by the American Board of Radiology in radiation therapy and is a Fellow of the American College of Radiology (ACR), the American Brachytherapy Society (ABS), and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

He is a member of several committees: Accreditation Committee Apex (ASTRO), ACRRO (ABS liaison), ABS (Board of directors), ABS (Patient safety, co-chair), ABS (International committee, Vice-chair), AAPM (Chair of BTSC), member of AAPM TPC (Therapy Physics Committee), and a member of several Task Groups (TG-121, HEBD, TG-167, TG-244, TG-236, TG182, WG on Brachytherapy, TG-253, TG-288, TG-292). He has served as a reviewer for several medical physics and radiation oncology journals. He was the founder and chair of the American Brachytherapy School entitled “Quality Management in Brachytherapy”. He published several international peer-reviewed articles and has served as a speaker at several national and international meeting (AAPM, ASTRO, ESTRO, ABS). He was the author of multiple chapters in several books and articles related to breast, prostate, skin, and radiobiology. He served as president of the Florida AAPM Chapter (2002). While Brachytherapy has been his focus, patient safety and quality assurance in radiation therapy were his primary areas of interest.



**Dr Ahmed A. ZERGOUN**

*Université M'hamed Bougara, Boumerdès, DZ*

Ahmed Amine Zergoun is an assistant professor at the university M'hamed Bougara, Boumerdes, Algeria.

He conducts his research at the university of Sciences and technology Houari Boumediene “USTHB” as member of Cytokines and NO Synthase’s team headed by the Pr. Touil-Boukoffa C.

During his PhD (mentored by Pr. Bourouba), he focused on the inflammatory processes that modulate NOS2 activity; an enzyme implicated in the pathophysiology of nasopharyngeal carcinoma. In addition, he studied the immunosuppressive mechanisms employed by tumor cells within the tumor microenvironment; via an established crosstalk among soluble mediators such as cytokines, chemokines, enzymes, stromal and immune cells.

At the present time, his work is aimed at understanding the mechanisms underlying host-tumor interactions and the implication of viral infection (EBV, HPV) in the pathogenesis of breast cancer.