



Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Azza NAIJA

Research Associate
Biomedical Research Center
Qatar University
Doha, QATAR
Nationality: Tunisian 36 years old
Born on March, 08th 1986
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Qualifications:

September 2016

Doctoral degree in Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (University of Monastir, Tunisia): **Mention: very honorable**

November 2011

Master's Degree in Marine Aquaculture and Biotechnology
Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Monastir (ISBM) (University of Monastir, Tunisia)
Mention: Well

June 2009

Bachelor Degree in Marine Biotechnology
Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Monastir (ISBM) (University of Monastir, Tunisia)
Mention: Well

June 2005

Baccalaureate, Section “Experimental sciences”
Secondary School “Jawhara, Sousse”

Internships:

April 2014 – July 2014

Research internship at the University of Namur (BELGIUM): Monitoring of the bioaccumulation of heavy metals within organisms. Study of a new semi-quantitative analysis approach for the histopathological study.

November 2013 – March 2014

Research internship at the University of Monastir (TUNISIA): Histopathological effects following the exposure of fish to heavy metals

May 2013 – August 2013

Research internship at the University of Genoa (ITALY): Cytogenetic evaluation of the toxicity of heavy metals on a fish species from the Tunisian coasts.

March 2013 – May 2013

Research internship at the University of Namur (BELGIUM): Biochemical evaluation of the toxicity of heavy metals on a fish species of the Tunisian coasts.

September 2012– December 2012

Research internship at the University of Maine (FRANCE): Molecular evaluation (study of gene expression) of the toxicity of heavy metals on a fish species from the Tunisian coasts.

May 2010 – October 2011

Research internship at the University of Monastir (TUNISIA) : Study of aquatic pollution the effects on some biological parameters of the species *Parablennius incognitus* (Bath, 1968) from the Tunisian coasts.

February – May 2009

Graduate project at the University of Monastir (TUNISIA): Contribution to the biological studies of halophyte species *Tamarix boveana* Bunge, *Sueda fructuosa*, *Frankenia laevis* and

Liminium echioides.

July 2009

Technical internship at United Colors of BENETTON (TUNISIA).

July 2005

Technical internship in Tunisian aquaculture company (TUNISIA).

Participation in scientific conferences:

February 2023

7th QU health annual research: Toxicity Assessment of Amoxicillin Antibiotic Using Zebrafish Embryo Model.

POSTER

October 2022

Annual Research Forum and Exhibition: Investigating the role of Desma mutation in Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophies using the Zebrafish model: A histopathological confirmation.

POSTER

October 2021

Annual Research Forum and Exhibition: Does right atrial ligation microsurgery affects the heart development of chick embryos? A multidisciplinary study. **POSTER**

April 2016

Communication in the seventh international scientific days on the valorization of bioresources: Neurotoxic effects of cadmium in the peacock blenny *Salaria pavo*: Histological alterations.

March 2015

Oral communication in the sixth meetings of the ichthyology in France (Paris): Histopathological effects of cadmium on gills and liver of peacock blennies *Salaria pavo*.

April 2012

Communication in the third international scientific days on the valorization of bioresources: Effects of aquatic pollution on *Parablennius incognitus* (teleost fish) residing Tunisian coasts: effects on morphometric and meristic parameters.

March 2012

Oral communication in the fifth meetings of the ichthyology in France (Paris): Effect of

aquatic pollution on the species *Parablennius incognitus* (Teleostean fish) residing Tunisian coasts: histopathological effects and antioxidant activities.

Scientific publications

Evaluation of cadmium and mercury on cardiovascular and neurological systems: Effects on humans and fish.

A Naija, HC Yalcin. *Toxicology Reports*, **IF 4.8.**

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxrep.2023.04.009>

Blood flow disturbances and morphological alterations following the right atrial ligation in the chick embryo (2022).

M Alser, HE Salman, A Naija, TD Seers, T Khan, HC Yalcin. *Frontiers in physiology*, **IF 4.56.**

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fphys.2022.849603>

The role of PAK4 on the immune system and its potential implication in cancer immunotherapy (2021).

Azza Naija, Maysaloun Merhi, Varghese Inchakalody, Queenie Fernandes, Sarra Mestiri, Kirti S. Prabhu, Shahab Uddin, Said Dermime. *Cell Immunology*, **IF 4.86.**

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cellimm.2021.104408>

Effects of Hg sublethal exposure in brain of peacock blennies *Salaria pavo*: molecular, physiological and histopathological analysis (2018)

Azza Naija, Patrick Kestemont, Zohra Haouas, Ronny Blust, Benoit Chénais, Ahmed Nouredine Helal, Justine Marchand. 2018. *Chemosphere*. **IF 8.94**

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2018.11.118>

Cadmium exposure exert neurotoxic effects in peacock blennies *Salaria pavo* (2017).

Azza Naija, Patrick Kestemont, Zohra Haouas, Ronny Blust, Benoit Chénais, Ahmed Nouredine Helal, Justine Marchand: *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*. **IF 7.12**

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoenv.2017.05.041>

Biomarkers assessment in the peacock blenny *Salaria pavo* exposed to cadmium (2016)

Azza Naija, Justine Marchand, Patrick Kestemont, Zohra Haouas, Ronny Blust, Benoit Chénais, Ahmed Nouredine Helal. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*; 2016. **IF 5.19**

DOI 10.1007/s11356-016-6754-6

Mercury accumulation and its effects on molecular, physiological and histopathological responses in the peacock blenny *Salaria pavo* (2016)

Azza Naija, Justine Marchand, Patrick Kestemont, Zohra Haouas, Ronny Blust, Benoit Chénais, Ahmed Noureddine Helal. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*. **IF 5.19**
DOI 10.1007/s11356-016-7401-y

Assessment of oxidative stress and histopathological biomarkers in the *Parablennius incognitus* fish as potential contamination indicators of the bay of Sousse (Tunisia). (2015)

Tahar Gharred, **Azza Naija**; Rawka Rayena Bouali; Zohra Haouas and Benoît Chenais. *Journal of Marine Science: Research and Development*. **IF 23.54**
DOI: 10.4172/2155-9910.1000166

Assessment of toxic interactions between deltamethrin and copper on the fertility and developmental events in the Mediterranean sea urchin, *Paracentrotus lividus*. (2015)

Tahar Gharred & Issaad Kawther Ezzine & **Azza Naija** & Rawka Rayena Bouali & Jamel Jebali. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*. **IF 3.42**

Projects

2024-2027

Academic Research Grant (QRDI/QATAR). Lead Principle Investigator; Fund : 739.683 K\$.
Plasticizers-containing water: Between toxicity assessment and development of efficient membranes for their removal.

2023

Under Graduate Project (Qatar University/QATAR). Lead Principle Investigator. Toxicity Assessment of Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate using Zebrafish embryos: cardiotoxic potential.

Professional experiences

January 2022-Until now

Manager of the zebrafish facility at the Biomedical Research center (Qatar University)

November 2021-Until now

Research associate at the Biomedical Research Center (Qatar University)

November 2021-Until now

Manager of the chick embryo lab at the Biomedical Research center (Qatar University)

October 2019-March 2020

Research assistant at National Center of Cancer Care and Research. Hamad Medical Corporation.

July 2019-October 2019

Trainee at National Center of Cancer Care and Research. Hamad Medical Corporation.

Technical skills and competencies at NCCCR. Hamad Medical Corporation

- Western Blot
- Echocardiography on zebrafish and chick embryo hearts
- Zebrafish motility assay on embryos and adults
- Zebrafish Heart Functions
- Histopathology
- Perfusion of chick embryo hearts
- Right and left atrial ligations
- Protein extraction
- DNA extraction
- RNA extraction
- RT-PCR
- RT-quantitative PCR
- Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells (PBMCs) isolation from blood
- Cell culture
- Trypsinazation

Other technical skills and competencies

- Genotoxicity: Aneuploidie test
- Genotoxicity: micronucleus test
- Identification and publication of partial sequences of genes in the gene bank“European Nucleotide Archive”. Submitted genes were: beta-actin, alpha- tubulin, elongation factor-1a, ABCB1 (ATP-Binding Cassette subfamily B),ABCC1 and ABCC2 (ATP-Binding Cassette subfamily C), ABCG2 (ATP- Binding Cassette subfamily G), Cu/Zn-SOD (SuperOxyde Dismutase), Mn-SOD, CAT (Catalase), GPx (Glutathion Peroxydase), MT1 and MT2 (Metallothioneins), Hsp70 and Hsp90 (Heat Shock Proteins), AChE (Acetylcholinesterase).

- Gene expression: RNA extraction, RT-PCR, partial cDNA cloning, RT-QPCR.
- Measurement of enzymatic and non-enzymatic biomarkers: GPx, CAT, GST, LPO, AChE and EROD.
- Histopathology: cerebellum, optic tectum, liver and gills (good skills) with SEMI-QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS of the results.
- Measurement of heavy metals (mercury and cadmium) in sample organs (brain, liver, gills).
- Measurement of heavy metals concentrations in water (mercury and cadmium)

Organisational skills and competences:

Member of the Association ATDOCs (2013)

Member of the Association for Mediterranean Culture and Arts « ACAM » (2010-2012)

Member of the association Tunisia help « tunaide » (2013)

Languages

English

Oral level: excellent

Writing level: excellent

French

Oral level: excellent

Writing level: excellent

Arabic

Oral level: excellent

Writing level: excellent

Italian

Oral level: good

Writing level: basic

I AM AWARE, WITH A GOOD CONSCIOUSNESS, THAT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED INFORMATIONs EXACTLY REFLECT MY SITUATION, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCES.

DATE: 03/12/2023

