

Shirin Ali Hafezi Haghani



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Online Portfolios : <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Shirin-Hafezi/research>

Education

- **Master of Molecular Medicine & Translational Research**
University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE 2017-2019
GPA - 3.88/4
- **Bachelor of General Biology**
American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE 2012-2015
- **Khawla Secondary Girls school**
Manama, Bahrain
GPA- 92%

Technical Experiences

Biochemistry:

- Blotting Techniques (Western Blotting)

Cellular Biology:

- Luciferase Assay
- Immunohistochemistry (IHC)
- Cell culture
- Immunofluorescent (IF)
- CRISPR-CAS9
- Site Directed Mutagenesis
- Transfection
- Invasion Assay
- The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)
- Silencing of gene expression
- MTT & SRB

Molecular Biology:

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- RNA Extraction
- DNA Extraction

Animal Manipulation:

- Animal Model Techniques: Brain dissection & Isolation of brain micro-vessels
- Flexivent FX system

Microbiological Laboratory Techniques:

- Isolation of plasmid DNA from Bacteria: Maxi-prep, Mini-prep
- Site Directed Mutagenesis

Tools for analysis:

- MTT
- IHC (Correlational studies)
- ImageJ
- Graphpad Prism

Work Experience

- ❖ **Sharjah Institute for Medical Research, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates [2021-Present]**
 - Designation : Full Time Research Assistant, Covid Lab, Covid Research [June 2021 Present]
Laboratory Manager, Asthma Research Group [June 2021 - Present]
- ❖ **Sharjah Institute for Medical Research, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates [2019-2021]**
 - Designation : Research Assistant, Cancer Research Lab, Breast Cancer Research [Dec 2019-2021]
CRISPR/CAS9 Knock-out (KO) Cell Generation [2020]
- ❖ **Sharjah Institute for Medical Research, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates [2019-2020]**
 - Designation : Research Assistant, Drug Discovery Group, Breast & Brain Cancer Research
- ❖ **Mater Research, Translational Research Institute [2018 – 2019]**
 - Designation : Research Assistant, Colorectal Cancer Research [June 2018 - June 2020]
- ❖ **American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates [2014-2015]**
 - Designation : Environmental Research [July 2014-June 2015]

Publication Profile

1. Vitamin D Enhances Type I IFN Signaling in COVID-19 Patients (Accepted, Scientific Report, Sep 2022)
2. Interleukin-17, a salivary biomarker for COVID-19 severity (Accepted, PLOS ONE Journal, Aug 2022)
3. Upregulation of interleukin-19 in saliva of patients with COVID-19 (Accepted, Scientific Report, Aug 2022)
4. Sharif-Askari FS, Hafezi S, Sharif-Askari NS, Alsayed HAH, Mdkhana B, Selvakumar B, Temsah MH, Saddik B, Al Anouti F, Halwani R. Vitamin D modulates systemic inflammation in patients with severe COVID-19. *Life Sci.* 2022 Aug 24; 307:120909. doi: 10.1016/j.lfs.2022.120909. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36028169; PMCID: PMC9398944.
5. Saheb Sharif-Askari F, Goel S, Saheb Sharif-Askari N, Hafezi S, Al Heialy S, Hachim MY, Hachim IY, Mahboub B, Salameh L, Abdelraziz M, Elzain EI, Al-Muhsen S, Al-Hajjaj MS, Ratemi E, Hamid Q, Halwani R. Asthma Associated Cytokines Regulate the Expression of SARS-CoV-2 Receptor ACE2 in the Lung Tissue of Asthmatic Patients. *Front Immunol.* 2022 Jan 17; 12:796094. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2021.796094. PMID: 35111161; PMCID: PMC8801531.
6. Alabed M, Sultana Shaik A, Saheb Sharif-Askari N, Saheb Sharif-Askari F, Hafezi S, Mdkhana B, Ratemi E, Al-Muhsen S, Hamid Q, Halwani R. Enhanced Infiltration of Central Memory T Cells to the Lung Tissue during Allergic Lung Inflammation. *Int Arch Allergy Immunol.* 2022;183(2):127-141. doi: 10.1159/000518835. Epub 2021 Oct 20. PMID: 34818243.
7. Hafezi S, Saber-Ayad M, Abdel-Rahman WM. Highlights on the Role of *KRAS* Mutations in Reshaping the Microenvironment of Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021 Sep 23;22(19):10219. doi: 10.3390/ijms221910219. PMID: 34638560; PMCID: PMC8508406.
8. Saheb Sharif-Askari F, Saheb Sharif-Askari N, Goel S, Hafezi S, Assiri R, Al-Muhsen S, Hamid Q, Halwani R. SARS-CoV-2 attenuates corticosteroid sensitivity by suppressing DUSP1 expression and activating p38 MAPK pathway. *Eur J Pharmacol.* 2021 Oct 5; 908:174374. doi: 10.1016/j.ejphar.2021.174374. Epub 2021 Jul 22. PMID: 34303662; PMCID: PMC8295491.
9. Hafezi S, Rahmani M. Targeting BCL-2 in Cancer: Advances, Challenges, and Perspectives. *Cancers (Basel).* 2021 Mar 14;13(6):1292. doi: 10.3390/cancers13061292. PMID: 33799470; PMCID: PMC8001391.

10. Guimei M, Alrouh S, Saber-Ayad M, Hafezi SA, Vinod A, Rawat S, Wardeh Y, Bakkour TM, El-Serafi AT. Inhibition of Yes-Associated Protein-1 (YAP1) Enhances the Response of Invasive Breast Cancer Cells to the Standard Therapy. *Breast Cancer (Dove Med Press)*. 2020 Nov 2; 12:189-199. doi: 10.2147/BCTT.S268926. PMID: 33173331; PMCID: PMC7648157.
11. Harati R, Hafezi S, Mabondzo A, Tlili A. Silencing miR-202-3p increases MMP-1 and promotes a brain invasive phenotype in metastatic breast cancer cells. *PLoS One*. 2020 Oct 1;15(10): e0239292. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0239292. PMID: 33002044; PMCID: PMC7529272.
12. Hafezi SA, Abdel-Rahman WM. The Endocrine Disruptor Bisphenol A (BPA) Exerts a Wide Range of Effects in Carcinogenesis and Response to Therapy. *Curr Mol Pharmacol*. 2019;12(3):230-238. doi: 10.2174/1874467212666190306164507. PMID: 30848227; PMCID: PMC6864600.
13. Aaron Bartholomew, Shirin A. Hafezi, Solmaz Karimi, Effects of habitat complexity on the abundance, species richness and size of darkling beetles (Tenebrionidae) in artificial vegetation, *Journal of Arid Environments*, Volume 129, 2016, Pages 35-41, ISSN 0140-1963, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2016.02.004>.

Project and Presentation Profile

Projects

- Rare Genetic diseases/ September 2022- Present
- Role of Vitamin D in systemic inflammation in patients with severe COVID-19. Covid / September 2020- June, 2021
- CRISPR/CAS9: Knocking out ATG7, ATG5 and CDK-4 in two colorectal cancer cell lines HCT116/- & HCT116+/. Successfully completed (2020)

Master Projects

- Study of the Expression and Function of HSP60 in Colon Cancer / July, 2018 - June, 2019

Bachelor Projects

- Effects of habitat complexity on the abundance, species richness and size of darkling beetles (Tenebrionidae) in artificial vegetation, *Journal of Arid Environments* / July 2014 - June 2015

References

- Prof. Rabih Halwani
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