


**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Bilal A. Azakir



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Sex Male | Date of birth 07/07/1981 | Nationality Lebanese

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

September 2014-Present

**Assistant Professor Medical Biochemistry**

Faculty of Medicine ,Beirut Arab University , Beirut , Lebanon

2009-2014

**Senior researcher**

Subject: Development of treatment strategies for neuromuscular disorders  
Neuromuscular Research centre, University hospital Basel

2008-2009

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

Subject: Biochemical identification of dysferlin binding partners.  
Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Prof. Dr. Michael Sinnreich

**EDUCATION & TRAINING**

2008

**PhD in Biological Sciences, University of Montreal**

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Laboratory, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada, Prof. Annie Angers. Title of PhD Thesis: Identification and role of the ubiquitin-ligase Itch/AIP4 in cell growth and apoptosis

2004

**DEA in Biochemistry, University of Claude Bernard Lyon I**

Cellular and Molecular Radiobiology Laboratory, University of Claude Bernard Lyon 1, Lyon, France, Prof. Claire Rodriguez-Lafrasse. Subject: Molecular mechanisms involved in radioresistance of leukemic cells expressing the protein Bcl-2

2003

**Master in Biochemistry**

Lebanese University Fanar, Campus, Lebanon

2002

**Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry**

Lebanese University Fanar, Campus, Lebanon.

1999

**Lebanese Baccaureate in Sciences**

**PERSONAL SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s)

Arabic

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
French	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
German	Basic	Basic	Basic	Basic	Basic

Computer skills

Good commend of Microsoft Office

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Publications:

- Azakir BA, Erne B, Di Fulvio S., Stirnimann G, Sinnreich M. Proteasome inhibitors increase misense mutated dysferlin in pateitns with muscular dystrophy. Science Transl Med 6, 250ra112, 2014

- Azakir BA, Di Fulvio S, Salomon S, Brockhoff M, Therrien C, Sinnreich M. Modular dispensability of dysferlin's C2 domains reveals rational design for mini-dysferlin molecules. *J Biol Chem.* 2012.
- Di Fulvio S, Azakir BA, Therrien C and Sinnreich M. Dysferlin Interacts with Histone Deacetylase 6 and Increases alpha-Tubulin Acetylation, *PLoS One*, 2011; 6(12): e28563
- Azakir BA, Di Fulvio S, Kinter J and Sinnreich M. Proteasomal inhibition restores biological function of mis-sense mutated dysferlin. *J Biol Chem.* 2012 Mar 23; 287 (13):10344-54.
- Azakir B.A, Di Fulvio,S, Therrien C, Sinnreich M. Dysferlin interacts with tubulin and microtubules in mouse skeletal muscle, 2010, *PLoS One*, Volume 5, Issue 4 .
- Azakir B.A, Desrochers G., Angers A. The ubiquitin ligase Itch mediates the antiapoptotic activity of EGF by promoting tBid ubiquitylation and degradation, 2010, *FEBS Journal* 277 1319–1330.
- Azakir B.A, Angers A. Reciprocal regulation of the ubiquitin ligase Itch and the epidermal growth factor receptor signalling, *Cell Signal.* 2009 Aug; 21(8):1326-36.
- Rania Mouchantaf<sup>†</sup>, Bilal A. Azakir<sup>†</sup>, Peter S. McPherson, Susan M. Millard, Stephen A. Wood, Annie Angers. The Ubiquitin Ligase Itch is Auto-ubiquitylated *In Vivo* and *In Vitro* But Is Protected From Degradation By Interacting With The Deubiquitylating Enzyme FAM/USP9X, *J Bio Chem.* 2006 Dec 15;281(50):38738-47. <sup>†</sup> Co-auteur.

Fellowships and grants

- Gebert Ruef Stiftung, Basel (April 2012- August 2014), Co-Principal Investigator.
- Nachwuchs-Förderungs-Stipendium Basel University (April 2010-April 2011).
- Centre of Excellence in Commercialization and Research Fellowship (CECR), McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 2008-2009
- Quebec Merit Scholarship for Foreign Students (PBEEE), University of Montreal, Canada, 2005-2008
- Fonds de bourses en sciences biologiques (FASEB) fellowship, University of Montreal, 2006
- Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) travel fellowship, 2007

Teaching and Research trainees monitoring

2010-2014

- Sabrina Di Fulvio, PhD thesis, Neurobiology, University of Basel. Marielle Brockhoff, PhD thesis, Neurobiology, University of Basel.
- Guillaume Desrochers, Master thesis, Biomedical Sciences, University of Montreal

2006-2008

- Anne Jacquet, Hery Ratsima, Charles-Étienne LebertGhali, Milagros Gonzales, Thanh Tien Tran and Yuliya Skorokhod. Undergraduate, Honour projects, University of Montreal.

2005-2008

- Teaching assistant for the following courses: Molecular biology, cell biology and genetics at the university of Montreal for Biomedical sciences, medical sciences, biological sciences student.

2004-2008

Conferences and communications:

- B.A Azakir, Marielle Brockhoff, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich. (2012) Proteasomal inhibition restores biological function of mis-sense mutated dysferlin. Second Ubiquitin research and drug discovery conference, Las Vegas, USA.
- B.A Azakir, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich. (May 2011) Therapeutic potential of proteasomal inhibition in dysferlinopathies with missense mutations. Myology, Lille, France.
- S Di Fulvio, B.A Azakir, Therrien C. and M Sinnreich (May 2011) Dysferlin interacts with HDAC6 and regulates myogenesis. Myology, Lille, France.
- B. A Azakir, B Erne, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich . Dysferlin interacts with alpha-tubulin in skeletal muscle. July 17- 21, 2010. Naples, Italy.

- B. A Azakir, B Erne, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich. (July 2010) A sarcolemmal wounding assay to study membrane resealing in cultured dysferlin-deficient human myoblasts. Naples, Italy.
- B. A Azakir, B Erne, S Di Fulvio, M Sinnreich. (November 2010) A sarcolemmal wounding assay to study membrane resealing in cultured dysferlin-deficient human myoblasts. Magglingen, Switzerland.
- Azakir B.A., Therrien C. and Sinnreich M. (2009) Dysferlin interacts with alpha-tubulin in skeletal muscle. FEBS meeting, Prague.
- Azakir B.A, Di Fulvio S, Therrien C. (2009) Dysferlin interacts with alpha-tubulin in skeletal muscle. FEBS, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Azakir B.A, Di Fulvio S, Therrien C. (2009) Dysferlin interacts with alpha-tubulin in skeletal muscle. Boston, USA.
- Azakir B.A, Desrochers G., Angers A. (december 2008) The ubiquitin ligase Itch protects cells from apoptosis by promoting tBid ubiquitylation and proteasomal degradation, The American Society for Cell Biology, San Francisco (invited speaker).
- Desrochers G, Azakir B.A and Angers A (2008) EGF receptor signaling influences endocytosis through the regulation of the activity of the ubiquitin ligase Itch. FASEB, Vermont.
- Azakir B.A, Angers A (2007) Activation of the ubiquitin ligase Itch following treatment with the epidermal growth factor (EGF). Poster. Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS), Vienna. Sponsored by the FEBS travel fellowship.
- Azakir B.A, Mouchantaf R., Angers A, (2007) La protease FAM régule la ligase de l'ubiquitine Itch, ACFAS, Trois-rivières (oral presentation).
- Angers, A., Azakir, B.A., Mouchantaf, R., Wong, R., Cross Regulation between the ubiquitin ligase itch and the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR). (2006) Oral presentation Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Summer Research Conference .
- Azakir B.A, Angers A. (2006), Relationship between Phosphorylation and Ubiquitination. McGill University, Canada.
- Azakir B.A, Angers A. (2005) Regulation of the ubiquitin ligase Itch by the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR). The American Society for Cell Biology, San Francisco. USA.
- Mouchantaf R, Azakir B.A, McPherson PS, Wood SA, Angers A (2005) The ubiquitin ligase Itch binds and is regulated by the ubiquitin protease FAM. The American Society for Cell Biology, San Francisco, USA.