# Professor Asmaa Al-Thani

Prof. Al-Thani is the founder and director of the Biomedical Research Center in Qatar University. She is the founder and previous dean of the College of Health Science at Qatar University. Prof. Al-Thani has also fulfilled roles as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar since 2011, as Vice Chairperson of the Qatar Biobank Board since 2010, a Qatar Foundation nominate for Chair of the National Genome Qatar Committee in December,2013.Prof. Al-Thani has numerous published articles in her field of expertise. She works as reviewer for several scientific journals and conferences and is a member in the American Society for Microbiology She received multiple academic awards including the First Prize of Sheikh Hamad Bin Rashid for Culture and Sciences for research in December 2006 and was awarded a prize from the Al-Jasra Cultural Club-Qatar for student research. More recently, in Feb 2019, she was awarded the "Incentive State Award" in the field of allied medical sciences and nursing and she was honored from the Amir H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

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# Professor Ahmed Malki

Prof. Ahmed Malki is acting director of academic quality assurance of QU Health. The central theme of my research is the understanding of the signaling pathways that regulate cell proliferation and cell death and designing novel anticancer drugs targeting the tumor suppressor p53. Signaling transduction pathways and networks have recently proven to be attractive targets for cancer therapy. Dr Malki's is also interested in investigating novel anticancer drugs that could be used alone or could be used as a therapeutic in conjunction with radiation for the treatment of cancer as radiosensitizers. More specifically, EGFR-Ras-PI3K-PTEN-Akt pathway which is the major radioprotective pathway active in most solid tumors and this pathway then presents targets that could be manipulated in a clinical setting to modify the radiation response. Dr Malki's team is interested in developing small molecules that specifically trigger cancer cells to undergo apoptosis and act as radiosenitizers. Chemotherapy even in combination with radiotherapy is only effective in a subset of the cancer patients. In the laboratory, we aim to optimize combination treatments based on molecular insights of tumors by targeting p53, Mdm2, Bax and Bcl-2. Pathway inhibition combined with novel drugs or different dosing schemes is evaluated in tissue culture and in vivo models in order to enhance therapeutic efficacy. In our collaboration with Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at Georgetown University and Edison Institute of biotechnology at Ohio University, we identified novel compound with ability to elevate p53 was diminished by IR inhibitor and IR-siRNA, suggesting a non-conventional role of IR as being involved in p53 offering a new therapeutic strategy for eliciting apoptotic signal and inhibiting cancer growth.. Dr Malki received domestic and international grants in molecular therapeutics and supervised several master students who received their master degree in the field of molecular therapeutics. Prof. Malki has more than 25 years of academic experience and supervised more than 20 graduate students.

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# Dr. Marawan Abu Madi

Dr. Marawan Abu Madi is a parasitologist in practice. He graduated from University of London with a PhD in Epidemiological and Molecular Parasitology and has been employed in Qatar University for more than 20 years where he currently serves as an associate professor in the field of medical parasitology and the head of the Biomedical Science department. Dr. Abu Madi has a strong background in research in Qatar and his research interest falls in the field of infectious disease, molecular epidemiology and immunology, with particular focus on gastrointestinal pathogens in humans and other mammals. Dr. Abu Madi is very active in research with three awarded NPRP projects, several UREP projects, a granted patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He has many publications in reputable peer-reviewed international journals. [abumadi@qu.edu.qa](mailto:abumadi@qu.edu.qa)

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**Dr. Nasser Rizk**

Dr. Nasser Rizk graduated with honors in medicine and surgery (M.M.B.ch) from Al-Mansoura College of Medicine Egyp1984. He practiced medicine after that, and he was appointed as a Demonstrator in AlMansoura College of Medicine in 1987. He got a master's degree with honor in human physiology/internal medicine in 1990 and designated as an assistant lecturer at the Medical College. He got his Ph.D. (19921995) at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), the USA in collaboration with Al-Mansoura College of Medicine, studying the impact of hyperglycemia and hyperinsulinemia on glucose transporters in skeletal muscles in Vivo. He was appointed a senior lecturer at Mansoura College of Medicine, Egypt in 1995 and received several awards in Egypt for his research. In 1996, he joined the Diabetes Research Institute in Dusseldorf, Germany as Visiting Scientists until 2001, where he received several grants to research control of food intake by leptin and cytokines at the hypothalamic level in obese and diabetic rodents in vivo. He joined Qatar University as an Associate Professor of Physiology, Endocrine, and Metabolism in Biomedical Sciences, where he taught many courses such as physiology, pathophysiology, endocrinology, and urine &body fluids. He was one of the members of the Biomedical Sciences Department involved in getting the accreditation for NACCALS for the program outside the USA in 2008, 2012 and 2019. He got many grants from HMC since 2006- 2014 and several QU grants (plus four prestigious NPRP grants from QNRF (2009, 2012, 2015, and 2016), plus 15 UREP grants from QNRF (2008-2015). He supervised more than 50 undergraduate students for the graduation projects in QU and 16 master students in Qatar plus six master students in Egypt and supervised 3 Ph.D. students. He has published clinical and basic research studies in well-respected peer-reviewed journals (more than 35 publications) plus more than 70 conference papers and presentations in the field of diabetes, obesity, and related clinical genetic studies. He is a professional member of several international committees like American Physiological Society, FASEB, American Diabetes Association, Endocrine Society, Obesity, IASO, and ARVO, as well as an editorial member in Archives of physiological biochemistry journal and other scientific journals. He received the best Excellence in Research in CAS, June 2013 and many local and regional awards for best research. He served as membership in various QU committees since 2005 up to now. He is affiliated as a faculty member in the Physiology Department, Mansoura Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura University, Egypt.

**Experience:** 1992-1994: A training program was conducted in the endocrine division at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). The training included the physiological techniques in the induction of diabetes, measurements of glucose utilization in vivo and how to assess the pathogenesis of its complications. The training was conducted at the cellular and molecular level for Ph.D. The dissertation was titled” Effects of hyperglycemia and hyperinsulinemia on glucose transport in rat skeletal muscle.” This study was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Ahmed Kissebah and Dr. Daniel Meier. 1996-now: New molecular techniques were gained during the scientific visits to the Diabetes Research Institute, Düsseldorf, Germany, including RT-PCR, PCR applications, genetic studies, and Signal Transduction in the hypothalamus. Multiplex Eliza and proteomics and cell behavior analysis in vitro. Tissue culture and diabetic research and endothelial function and miRNA biology. Genetic association studies related to obesity and diabetes fields and its complications.

Multiplex Eliza array quantification using Laser technology was for the first time, introduced in Qatar in biomedical labs using Luminex 200 since 2011 by me. We started 2-D gel techniques in biomedical labs-QU for proteomic research since 2012. Establishment of DIO mice in QU using wild type as well as knockout mice using different in vivo and vitro techniques to study obesity. Establishment of human retinal endothelial cell culture in QU with studying different physiological techniques including dynamic cell behavior to various drugs, physiological condition and pathological states., e.g., diabetic retinopathy and stroke.

# Research interest:

Insulin resistance is a hallmark in the pathogenesis of metabolic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, atherosclerosis, and cardiovascular diseases. I am interested in the pathogenesis and complications of insulin resistance, obesity and diabetes and the development of cardiometabolic syndrome. Such studies involved both basic and clinical studies addressing the early identification, prognosis, and complications of insulin-resistant states and related metabolic disorders utilizing all advanced tools of research. Current research interest (ongoing): 1-Identification of high-risk populations for metabolic complications, leading to cardio-metabolic vascular disorders, and 2- Prevention of metabolic-vascular complications in insulin-resistant states and diabetes at both clinical as well as basic research is of high interest. 3- Identifying small RNA molecules involved in the pathogenesis of obesity and diabetes in obese and diabetic animal models 4- Identifying the role of anti-obesity ant-diabetic small molecule in DIO and obese KO mice using different approaches. 5- Identify the role of long noncoding RNA in obesity and weight loss among obese subjects 6- Investigating the role of small RNA as well as long non-coding RNA as non-invasive biomarkers for NAFLD and NASH. 7- Investigating the role of the kidney in regenerative medicine.

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# Dr. Hatem Zayed

Dr. Hatem Zayed is on the Faculty in Department of Biomedical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Qatar University. He did his Ph.D. in genetic therapy and got his training in medical genetics at the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, California, USA, and in clinical molecular genetics at Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA. Dr. Zayed experience in industry was in companies such as Lentigen Corporation (Miltenyi Biotec), and Genzyme Genetics (LabCorp), where he was working in genetic therapy and clinical molecular diagnostics. He has extensive experience in studying the genetic etiology of genetic diseases using state-of- the-art genomic technology. Currently, Dr. Zayed is working in genomics, molecular oncology, and structural bioinformatics

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# Dr. Gheyath Nasrallah

I attended Dalhousie University/Halifax, Canada to pursue a PhD in Microbiology & Immunology in Dr. Rafael Garduno’s lab. He received his postdoctoral fellowship training in Dr. Jason Berman’s zebrafish lab at the IWK Health Center/Canada. After that, Dr. Nasrallah joined the College of Health Sciences/Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Qatar University (QU) in 2012 as an assistant professor. Dr. Nasrallah’s lab is located in the Biomedical Research Center at Qatar University, Qatar. My lab main area of research is (serology/infectious disease). In addition, the lab is very well equipped and serves several area of research fields including (i) in vitro studies: using bacteria, yeast, and cell culture model and (ii) in vivo functional studies: toxicity and functional genomic using zebrafish animal models. Recently, the lab received several grants from QNRF (NPRP, PPM, ‎UREP) and Qatar University (Internal Collaboration Grants and International Research Collaboration Co-Fund). My lab received several in-kind and financial supports from ‎several diagnostic and pharmaceutical companies, including bioMérieux (France), Euroimmune and Novates Diagnostics (Germany) Abbott and MP Biomedical (USA), Mindray and Wondfo (China). The lab currently constitutes 5 graduate students, 4 undergraduate students, two research assistants, and a zebrafish facility technical manager. In the last five years, my students and I received several distinctions and awards. We published more than 150 original ‎research and review articles in top cited Journals in the Medical filed including the New England Journal of Medicine, the Nature Medicine, the Lancet Infectious Diseases, and The Journal in Travel Medicine. To find more about my lab, please <https://qu-gkn.com/>.

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# Dr. Hadi M. Yassine

# Dr. Hadi Mohamad Yassine is an associate professor of infectious diseases, section head of research at the Qatar University (QU) ‎Biomedical Research Center ‎‎(BRC), and the chair of QU IBC committee. He also serves as an adjunct faculty at Hamad Ben Khalifa University-Doha (2018-Current) and previously at the Catholic University of America ‎(CUA)- Washington D.C (2014/2015). In addition to his administrative duties, he leads the ‎communicable diseases section at the BRC. His research and teaching experiences have been fostered by ‎several ‎years of intensive work at state-of-the-art and multi-disciplinary institutions. After earning a Ph.D. ‎degree ‎from The Ohio State University (OSU) in 2009, he worked at the Vaccine Research Center ‎‎(VRC) of the National Institute of ‎Health (NIH) for over five years as a postdoctoral fellow and then as a ‎research fellow. He has excellent experience ‎in the basic and applied biomedical ‎fields, including virology, microbiology, immunology, molecular diagnostics, and vaccine ‎development. He has published more than 130 articles, some of which are in top-tier scientific ‎journals like NEJM, Nature, Nature Medicine, Cell, JAMA, AND Lancet ID. He serves on many committees at QU and other institutions around Qatar. He participated in the organization of several local and international workshops and conferences. He received ‎several awards in recognition of his work and contributed to six patents on new ‎designs ‎of viral vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine. ‎

# Major Research Projects and interests:

*2015-currents:* QU-BRC. Virology, immunology, and epidemiology.

1. Genetic susceptibility to infectious diseases.
2. Evolution of coronaviruses in animals and humans.
3. Influenza complications and underlying mechanisms in disease pathogenesis in diabetic patients in Qatar.
4. Understanding influenza replication and pathogenicity in gastrointestinal tract.
5. Characterization of fecal influenza and its impact on gut microbiome.
6. Microbiome and disease
7. Epidemiological surveillance and molecular epidemiology of viral meningitis in Qatar.
8. Genotyping of enteroviruses in clinical samples.
9. Interplay between viral and bacterial infections and effect on microbiota and clinical illness.
10. Estimating the burden of viral gastroenteritis and effectiveness of rotavirus vaccine in young children in Qatar.
11. Air quality in Primary Health Care Centers in Qatar.
12. Measuring viral ADCC and CDC activities in human sera.
13. Laboratory-based surveillance and molecular epidemiology of influenza and other respiratory viruses in Qatar: 2012-2016.
14. Magnitude of RSV fusion protein-specific antibodies in infants and corresponding mothers in Qatar.
15. Zonotic infections and one health
16. Characterization of humoral immune response to coronaviruses (MERS AND SARS-2) infections.
17. In silico virtual screening approaches for anti-viral drugs.

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# Dr. Lily O’hara

Dr Lily O’Hara is Associate Professor of Public Health at Qatar University. She is a public health educator and practitioner with experience in Australia, UAE and Qatar. Lily has worked on community, workplace, and school-based programs addressing a broad range of health and wellbeing issues. Her research focuses on analyzing public health approaches to body weight, and developing ethical, evidence-based, salutogenic public health initiatives for body liberation using the social justice-based Health at Every Size approach. Lily’s research also focuses on enhancing the ethical and technical competencies of the health promotion workforce via the development and evaluation of the Red Lotus Critical Health Promotion Model. Lily has supervised many graduate research students in a range of projects including: assessing holistic health and wellbeing status in school, university and community settings; assessing knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and behaviours of community members, students, and health practitioners; assessing exposure to environmental determinants of health and wellbeing; and evaluating the process, impact and outcome of health promotion initiatives. She has expertise in quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research, including survey research, evaluation research, critical discourse analysis, document analysis, interviews and focus groups. She has recently undertaken training in using photovoice for qualitative data collection, and Q methodology which uses quantitative factor analysis to identify the range of subjective perspectives of people on a specific issue.

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# Dr. Manar El-Hassan

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Dr. Manar Elhassan is trained and expert in Biostatistics and Epidemiology, awarded a PhD from Boston University (USA), an MSc in Statistics from University of Kent at Canterbury (UK) and a BSc in Statistics and Computer Science from University of Khartoum (Sudan). She is currently an associate professor of Biostatistics at the Department of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Qatar University. She previously worked on cancer survival at the Non-communicable Disease Epidemiology Unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK). She also worked on cancer survival of Atomic bomb survivors at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Hiroshima (Japan). Manar was previously employed at the Faculty of Mathematical Sciences, University of Khartoum holding positions of Head of Statistics Department, Deputy Dean and Dean of the Faculty. Over the past two decades, Manar has been involved with household surveys, mainly Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). She served

as household survey expert for many countries as well as the regional consultant for UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Region. Her research interests include wide statistical and epidemiological applications of health and clinical data using advanced statistical modeling, discrete data analysis, survival analysis, clinical trials and analysis of complex survey data on women and children health. [She contributed](mailto:melhassan@qu.edu.qa) extensively to research on cancer survival, oral health, antibiotic use, mycetoma neglected disease and diabetes in pregnancy. Manar is also interested in data science, particularly predictive modeling using machine learning. She is currently a principal investigator in a number of NPRP grants.

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# Dr Zumin Shi

Dr Zumin Shi is Professor of Nutrition at the Human Nutrition Department, College of Health Sciences at Qatar University. He earned a medical degree from Beijing Medical University. He pursued a Master’s degree in International Community Health and a PhD in Nutritional Epidemiology from the University of Oslo after completing 13 years of experience in nutrition and food borne disease prevention at Jiangsu Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention in China. He later held postdoctoral positions at the University of Newcastle and the University of Oslo. Dr. Shi was an associate professor at the University of Adelaide before joining Qatar University in 2018. His research interest focuses on the relationship between food intake, lifestyle and chronic diseases. He is the principal investigator of several population studies in China, Australia and Qatar. Dr Shi has over 260 peer-reviewed publications with a Scopus H index of 40. He is actively involved in various research within Qatar, China, Australia, and USA.

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# Dr.Abdelhamid Kerkadi

Dr.Abdelhamid Kerkadi is an Associate Professor of Human Nutrition at the Human Nutrition Program at College of Health Sciences- Qatar University. He obtained his PhD in Human Nutrition from the University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada. Before joining Qatar University, he worked at UAE University for five years. His field of interests are obesity, CVD biomarkers and nutrition intervention. In collaboration with other faculty, he received an exceptional grant from Qatar Foundation. He is editorial member of many scientific journals.

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# Dr. Hiba Bawadi

Hiba Bawadi is a professor in human nutrition and dietetics and is the head of clinical training at the college of health sciences. Dr. Bawadi got her PhD from Louisiana State University in 2004 then moved to Jordan University of Science and Technology then joined Qatar University in In 2014. Dr. Bawadi published 70+ peer reviewed articles and 2 book chapters. Dr. Bawadi taught community nutrition, nutritional metabolism and diet therapy and she conducted several community service activities engaging students and in collaboration with local and regional NGOs.

**RESEARCH INTEREST:** preventive nutrition for non-communicable diseases; Students’ learning [and civic engagement](mailto:hbawadi@qu.edu.qa) as one of your research interest

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# Dr. Vijay Ganji

Dr. Vijay is a Professor in the Human Nutrition Department, College Health Sciences since August 2016. Dr. Vijay has a MS and PhD in Human Nutrition from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, USA. His research focus is in the areas of nutritional assessment of populations micronutrients (vitamin D and folic acid), micronutrient fortification of foods, and nutritional epidemiology. Dr. Vijay has published over 60 peer-reviewed papers and presented more than 100 papers in various international, national, and regional meetings. He has also obtained a Certificate in Adult Obesity Management from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

He is a member of the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and has Registered Dietitian (RD) credentials from this body. Dr. Vijay teaches Clinical Nutrition and Advanced Nutrition courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He is the Editor-In-Chief of the Nutrition and Food Science journal from Emerald.

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# Dr. Mujahed Shraim

Dr. Mujahed Shraim is an Associate Professor of Public Health (Epidemiology). He joined Qatar University in 2017. He holds a PhD in Epidemiology from Keele University, UK. He has completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in Epidemiology and Health Services research from University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA.

Dr. Shraim has published in international peer review journals on various topics, including non-specific physical symptoms among children and parents, factors associated with geographic variation in length of work disability in workers with occupational low back pain in the USA and associated factors, and other topics in mental health and clinical epidemiology.

Dr. Shraim has successfully supervised eight Master of Public Health theses as main supervisor and one PhD thesis as co-supervisor. He has taught several courses at undergraduate and graduate levels, including epidemiology, public health, research methods, biostatistics, classification of diseases, and first aid.

Dr. Shraim is a member of the National Cancer Screening Program in Qatar and is a member of the Primary Health Care Corporation Scientific Research Subcommittee.

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=5L9Fp_cAAAAJ&hl=en>

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# Dr. Houssein Khodjet-el-khil

Dr Houssein Khodjet Elkhil had his PhD in 2003 in human genetics from the University of Tunis El Manar in Tunisia. He had several post doctorate follows in Pasteur Institute of Paris in France, institute of forensic medicine at the University of Saint Jacques de Compostela in Galicia in Spain and the institute of pathology and molecular immunology of Porto (IPATIMUP) at the University of Porto in Portugal. He joined the college of Health sciences in Qatar University in 2018 as Associate professor. Dr Houssein has more than 20 years research activity in the field of medical genetics and genomics and forensic and population genetics. He published more 30 articles in peer reviewed journals and supervised many undergaduate and graduate students and 1 PhD. He was co-supervisor of 3 PhD students. His research activity is based on the investigation of human genome variability and its interaction with its environment with the aim to bring further insights in different applied fields:

POPULATION GENETICS: Study of the genetic structure and variability of Human populations (mainly North Africans) in order to understand the role of migration, founder effect, endogamy and consanguinity in shaping their actual genetic structure.

FORENSIC GENETICS: Identification of the most relevant genetic markers for human identification and determining ancestry origin through ancestry informative markers (AIMs) and Phenotypic characteristics through Phenotypic markers with externally visible characteristics (EVCs).

MEDICAL GENETICS: Identification of genetic markers with prognostic signature in monogenetic and complex diseases.

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# Dr. Hanan F. Abdul Rahim

Dr. Hanan F. Abdul Rahim is an Associate Professor and the Dean of the College of Health Sciences at Qatar University. She has a PhD in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine from the University of Oslo, Norway (2003); a MSc in Biology from Illinois State University, IL, USA (1994), and a BSc in Biology from Salem College, NC, USA (1992).

Dr. Abdul Rahim has over 20 years of experience in the field of public health. She is the founding Coordinator of the BSc in Public Health program (2012-2014) at Qatar University, one of the founding faculty members of Qatar’s first Master of Public Health (MPH) program (2015), and was the Head of the Department of Public Health between 2017 and 2019. In 2008, Dr. Abdul Rahim became one of the founding members of the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University, the country’s first academic-based survey research organization. She teaches epidemiology and research methods in the MPH program.

Dr. Abdul Rahim’s research interests are at the intersection of social science and public health, with a special interest in the social determinants of noncommunicable diseases and the health and wellbeing of women. She has participated in a number of funded research studies and has

authored a range of research and policy-oriented articles and reports in leading academic journals, including the Lancet, Health Policy, and Health Policy and Planning.

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# Dr. Karam Turk-Adawi

Dr. Karam Turk-Adawi is an Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of Public Health at the College of Health Sciences, Qatar University. She earned her PhD from Brandeis University, MA, USA. She has two Master's degrees in Public Health and in Social Science. Dr. Turk-Adawi had a post-doctoral fellowship at York University and held a research role in conducting global studies at the University Health Network, Canada.

She has over 20 years of teaching and research experience in academic institutions and international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the International Council of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (ICCPR), and other professional associations that address heart diseases such as the American, and Canadian associations for cardiovascular disease prevention and rehabilitation (AACVPR, and CACPR).

Dr. Turk-Adawi’s research centers on non-communicable diseases, health services, global health, health policy, quality of care, cardiac rehabilitation and clinical registries. She has published over 40 papers in top-tier journals, such as the Lancet, Nature, and Circulation. She also authored clinical practice guidelines. She has a well-established reputation in cardiovascular disease (CVD) epidemiology regionally and globally. Dr. Karam co-led the first-ever Global Cardiac Rehabilitation Survey (http://globalcardiacrehab.com/global-cr-program-survey/). She has been influential in the development of the International Cardiac Rehabilitation Registry (https://globalcardiacrehab.com/ICRR-Governance) with international experts. Dr. Turk-Adawi is also leading the development of Qatar National Cardiac Rehabilitation Registry. She secured several grants to conduct her research as the lead PI. She has successfully supervised several master and PhD students as the main supervisor. Dr. Karam has served on national and international committees. She is the Co-Chair of the International Cardiac Rehab Registry. She served on the World Health Organization’s expert panel for the development of the Rehabilitation Package 2030 for Ischemic Heart Disease. She also served as a reviewer of consensus and position statements and clinical guidelines on cardiac rehabilitation. Her contribution to global research on CVD was covered by international and local media extensively.

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# Dr. Huseyin C Yalcin

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Huseyin C. Yalcin** **(LPI)** works as an associate research professor at Biomedical Research Center (BRC), Qatar University. He is also joint faculty for Biomedical Science and Mechanical Engineering Programs at Qatar University. His research interests include cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, and cancer focusing on basic/translational science aspects of the investigations through in-vitro and in-vivo systems in addition to clinical studies.  Dr. Yalcin`s research experience has been fostered by several years of intensive work at state-of-the-art and multi-disciplinary institutions including Qatar Cardiovascular Research Center (as senior research scientist), and Cornell University Biomedical Engineering Department (USA, as postdoctoral researcher). He obtained his Ph.D. in Bioengineering/Mechanical Engineering in 2007 at Lehigh University, USA. Dr. Yalcin`s research interests span a wide range of topics in the basic, applied, and translational bioengineering. These involve, bioinstrumentation, biomedical signal processing, genetic manipulations, advanced microscopy imaging, ultrasonography, computed tomography, computational modeling, machine learning, biomechanical characterization of tissue, and development of biomaterials for tissue engineering applications. He published more than 80 papers, some of which in top tier scientific journals like Arteriosclerosis Thrombosis and Vascular Biology, Current Biology, Biomechanics and Modeling in Mechanobiology, Frontiers in Physiology, American Journal of Physiology, Frontiers in Bioengineering and Developmental Dynamics. These publications received above 1600 citations. Dr. Yalcin has received Young Scientist award form Turkish Science Academy in 2013. Dr. Yalcin secured more than $2 million for his research funded by Qatar National Research Fund, Qatar University, European Union FP7, and Turkish Science Foundation (TUBITAK).

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# Dr. Mohammed Fasihul Alam

Dr. Mohammed Fasihul Alam is an Associate Professor (Graduate Faculty) of Public Health at the Department of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Qatar University. Dr. Alam has a PhD in Operational Research from Cranfield University, UK (2004); an MSc in Health Economics and Health Policy from the University of Birmingham, UK (2015); an MSc in Statistics and BSc (Hons.) in Statistics from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh (1994, 1992). He has more than 20 years of experience in academic teaching and research in health economics, public health, statistics and operational research, and worked at a number of universities in England, Germany, Wales and Bangladesh.

Dr. Alam is an experienced researcher who has supervised more than 12 MSc/MPH theses students as a main supervisor at Qatar University and Swansea University (UK) and co-supervised 3 PhD students. He has a strong track record of publishing scientific research findings in peer-reviewed high impact journals and has more than 50 publications in his credit. Dr. Alam has a good record of accomplishment of securing competitive research grants from major national and international funding agencies (e.g. NIHR HTA, NIHR Public Health Program, MRC, Community Pharmacy Wales, British Council, Qatar University) as a PI/Co-PI. His research grants generated a total of approx. £5.5million. Dr. Alam’s research interests cover

* Health Policy Evaluation/Research
* Evidence generation for PH programs/interventions
* Economic evaluation alongside clinical trials
* Decision analytical model based cost-effectiveness analysis
* Economics of primary care infections, public health programs, IBD, COPD and Oncology
* Application of artificial intelligence in healthcare research

Over the years, I co-investigated more than 10 major research grants/projects, mainly RCTs and observational studies in the area of health technology assessment, public health programs – covering economics and epidemiology of primary care infections, adolescent drinking, antimicrobial resistance, inflammatory bowel disease, oncology, cancer screening, etc. Dr. Alam is looking forward supervising post-graduate thesis project(s) on a suitable topic falls in these areas.

Externally, Dr. Alam is a member of the National Screening Advisory Sub-Committee of Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in Qatar, and currently leading a feasibility study on Lung Cancer screening program in Qatar. During 2010-2015, Dr. Alam served as an independent health economist on new medicines & technologies appraisal process for All Wales Medicine Strategy Group (AWMSG) in the UK. Currently, he is an Associate Editor of the *BMC Health Services Research* journal, also act as a reviewer for the HMC Internal Grants, ISPOR Conference, *NIHR HTA and Public Health Program*, *European Journal of Public Health, Value in Health, PLOS ONE, BMC Public Health, BMC Health Services Research, Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory*. Dr. Alam is a Fellow of the UK Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH). He is a founding member of the Surrey Global Health Research Network (SGHRN), based at University of Surrey (UK). SGNRN was established in 2019 to collaborate research on global health issues which has international academic members from Peru, Kenya, South Africa, Qatar and UK.

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# Dr. Tahra ElObeid

Dr. Tahra ElObeid, Head of the Department of Human Nutrition, College of Health Sciences, Qatar University. She is also a WHO\_EMRO Advisor of Food composition and database. Dr.ElObeid has a Master’s degree in Human Nutrition and her PhD is in Food Technology from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna Austria. Prior to joining Qatar University, Dr. ElObeid worked at the United Nations World Food Program and several academic institutions. Her work experience includes consultancies and teaching in several institutions at a national and international level; the former Office of the Heir Apparent, Qatar, on nutrition and food safety; the Ministry of Public Health, Qatar, on food safety, the World Food Program, Unicef, the UNDP and Ahmed Bin Hamad Military College. Her main research interests and publications are in the field of in indigenous foods, food safety, food security, functional foods, antioxidant activity, diabetes and micronutrient deficiencies. She has several funded research projects and is a reviewer to several journals in her field.

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**Dr. Maya Bassil**

Dr. Maya Bassil holds a PhD in Human Nutrition from McGill University, Canada (2011) and is currently an Associate Professor of Human Nutrition and the head of the Human Nutrition Department in the College of Health Sciences at Qatar University (QU). She also holds a BS in Nutrition & Dietetics (2003) and a MS in Human Nutrition (2005) from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon, and she is a licensed dietitian.

Dr. Bassil’s research interest addressing Nutrition in obesity and diabetes as part of the inter-professional disease management. Dr. Bassil has published in several top tier reputable journals; she is a recipient of several awards, and serves as an editorial board member and an ad hoc reviewer for various peer-reviewed journals.

Dr Bassil’s research profile: [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&view_op=list_works&gmla=AJsN-F5gadDSff9PvfatwyX1WjGjCKFPNV0FFV-FzYKtETJnwu8HqLI3-VSHSTgJ1B_PajNnAj4rZI_vDqWrzjKgW9zoCbJJ4Q&user=_Gz2k7sAAAAJ)

# Dr. Reema Tayyem

Professor Reema Tayyem obtained her BSc in Biochemistry and MSc and PhD in Human Nutrition. Professor Tayyem served as Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Department chair and assistant dean at the Hashemite University for about 8 years. She joined the Department at 2001and moved to Nutrition and Food Technology Dept. at the University of Jordan in 2016. She got UNESCO-L'Oreal Fellowship for Young Women in Life Sciences–2005. She performed her postdoc study at UCSD Cancer Center/University of California, San Diego/CA/USA. Professor Tayyem taught many courses in nutrition for undergraduate and postgraduate (MSc and PhD) students. She got research funding from different agencies inside and outside Jordan. Her main research interest is nutrition and dietary patterns associated with chronic diseases including cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other related to diet.

Professor Tayyem attended many international, regional and national conferences and workshops. She serves or has served on the Editorial Boards of many Journals. She has published more than 119 papers in peer- reviewed journals. Professor Tayyem is now the Editor in Chief for Pakistan Journal of Nutrition and The President of Jordanian Dietetics Association.

Professor Tayyem got many awards and honors. She has been recently honored by Samia Manko Award for distinguished scientist women in 2020 and also honored by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University College for Innovation for the role as an entrepreneur female in Nutrition (2020). Besides, she got Venus International Foundation Awards, Centre for Women Empowerment, Distinguished Woman in Nutrition–2017. Professor Tayyem also honored for the outstanding Academic achievements at the Hashemite University (2015); Khalil Al-Salem Award for the best Book in Nutrition and Food Technology “Handbook of Healthy Food Preparation and Storage”, Jordan, Amman (2015) and for the outstanding Academic achievements at the Hashemite University (2014).

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# Professor Isabel Ferreira

Prof. Ferreira joined Qatar University - College of Health Sciences in Aug 2021. She is a Professor of Epidemiology at the Department of Public Health, where she teaches (advanced) epidemiology and research methods courses in the Master of Public Health and PhD Graduate Programs. Since Aug 2022 she is the coordinator for the Clinical & Population Health track of the QU Health - PhD in Health Sciences Program. She obtained a MSc in Exercise and Health from the University of Lisbon, Portugal (1998), and a PhD in Epidemiology (lifestyle, metabolic and cardiovascular diseases) from the Faculty of Medicine, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2004). Prof. Ferreira has over 20 years of experience in epidemiology teaching and research, both in public health and clinical related settings, in top universities in the Netherlands (Erasmus University and Maastricht University Medical Centers) and Australia (University of Queensland and University of Wollongong). To date she has published >100 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, 14 book chapters and 1 textbook, and supervised or co-supervised 9 PhD + 9 MSc students to conclusion. She has held several competitive research grants and served in international grant evaluation and conference panels. She is also an experienced Editor and a Clarivate/Web-of-Science top peer reviewer. She is passionate about the study of the early (perinatal, childhood) determinants of metabolic and cardiovascular health. Her main expertise/interests are in advanced epidemiological methods to analyze longitudinal/life-course cohort data, conduct mediation analyses, and complex meta-analyses in the area of lifestyle-related diseases such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension. More recently, she has focused on teaching/research of responsible research practices and integrity, and in the debunking of the growing amount of published flawed and misleading research and the spread of health-related misinformation. “*Empowerment through authentic communication*” is her motto.

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# Dr. Marguerite Claire

Associate Professor Marguerite (Margo) Sendall(PhD) has more than **20 years of experience in health promotion** encompassing health promotion practice in schools, teaching postgraduate health promotion theory and practice, supervising health promotion research students and conducting applied research in settings-based health.

AssPro Sendall has earnt $62,000 internal competitive and $1,542,468 external competitive (Cat 2) grant income plus $50,000 commercial grant income. **This is a total of more than a million dollars ($AUD1,654,468).** Dr Sendall has 88 publications including 8 books and 52 peer reviewed journal articles in D1 and Q1 Scimago journals.

AssPro Sendallhassupervised 18 Masters and 16 Doctoral students. Eight international doctoral students received scholarships to the value of $AUD700,000 and three were nominated for the Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award (top 5% of students). In particular, Dr Sendall has experience in supervising **international** **students** (Fiji, Vietnam, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia) with local collaborations who undertake field work in their home country.

AssPro Sendall is a qualitative researcher contributing to mixed methods projects common in public health to ensure both research paradigms receive sound guidance and support. If you are contemplating mixed methods, you should have a quantitative and qualitative expert on your supervisory team. If you are not sure about this, or anything else, please contact me and we can organise a video call to chat further.

AssPro Sendall **supports** potential students leading up to and throughout **the application process** by providing guidance about methodologies and approaches, research plans and project feasibility and navigating the enrolment pathway. In particular, Dr Sendall is supportive**, friendly, interactive and hands-on supervisory style** which includes regular meetings and timely feedback. Dr Sendall will help you navigate and problem solve the inevitable issues encountered during your research journey including ethics applications, responsive methodologies and timely and successful milestones. Additionally, Dr Sendall will help you with administrative processes such as **scholarship applications** and thesis lodgement. And **after graduation**, Dr Sendall will support you by progressing publications and supporting career opportunities.

ENQUIRIES: Please contact me if you are thinking (even vaguely) about studying health promotion. I am more than happy to chat about potential pathways to fulfil your aspirations and help however I can. My email is [msendall@qu.edu.qa](mailto:msendall@qu.edu.qa)

KEYWORDS: public health, health promotion, settings-based health promotion, school health, workplace health, qualitative research methodology, phenomenography, participatory action research, in-depth interviews, focus groups.



# Dr. Maha Al-Asmakh

Dr. Maha Al-Asmakh is the Head of Biomedical Science Department at the College of Health Science, Qatar University since September 2020. She obtained her BSc in Biomedical Sciences (Hons) from Qatar University. She then continued her postgraduate studies and obtained her MSc in Human Reproductive Biology from Imperial College London. She received her Doctor's degree (Ph.D.) from Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Dr.Al-Asmakh research interest is in the field of microbiome and Zebrafish toxicology. Dr. Al-Asmakh is an adjuvant research associate professor at the Biomedical Research Center at Qatar University and an active member of many academic and research committees at the University level. She serves as a reviewer for several scientific journals and research grants and is a member of the International Society of Microbiota.

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**Dr. Elham Sharif**

Dr Elham Sharif has completed her PhD in Biomedical Sciences (Clinical Chemistry) from the University of West of England at Bristol, United Kingdom in January 2009. She was awarded the Sigma Diagnostic Prize for Best Overall Achievements in the Master Degree studies. Her BSc was in Biomedical Sciences with Excellent GPA, Qatar university. She is still working at Qatar University as an associate professor of Biomedical Sciences. She is mainly teaching Clinical Chemistry, Endocrinology, Pharmacology & Toxicology. Her PhD research was focused upon using novel methods of utilizing Magneto Immunoassay*.* Her dissertation research was on “The Rapid Measurements of LNCAP Intracellular PSA as A Model for a Novel Cell Based Diagnostic Exploiting Magneto Immunoassay”. Meanwhile her research interest is focused on conditions related to diseases occurring in Qatar and would like to establish a research group to investigate conditions that affect the life style impact in Qatar especially topics related to women’s health. Dr Elham presented her work several times in international conferences mainly the American association of clinical chemistry and IFCC Euromedlab congress. Over 14 articles were published by Dr Elham, most of which involved investigating different conditions related to vitamin D deficiency and female conditions related to polycystic ovarian syndrome. She establish and organize with her students several awareness days about the vitamin D deficiency awareness, aimed to raise the health awareness in the university and community, as well as providing a healthy safe environment at her Department of Biomedical Science, college of health sciences, Qatar University (QU).

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# Dr. Abdullah Shaito

Dr. Abdullah Shaito is an Assistant Professor at the Biomedical Research Center (BRC) at Qatar University. He also has a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor at the College of Medicine and the College of Health Sciences at Qatar University. He has Ph.D. in Biomedical Science from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Texas, USA. He also has an M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Biology from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. At the University of Texas Southwestern Dr. Shaito worked under the supervision of Prof. Masashi Yanagisawa and studied microbiota interaction with intestinal cells through GPR41, an orphan GPCR, establishing one of the first signaling interactions between microbiota and intestinal cells. He later moved to work as a postdoc at the American University of Beirut and then became a faculty member of the Lebanese International University. Dr. Shaito. Dr. Shaito is an active reviewer for several journals and grants. He has more than 40 publication (cited more than 3000 times as per on google scholar), some of which are in top-tier scientific journals like PNAS and Molecular Cell.

At Qatar University, he teaches genetics and developmental biology courses. He is hosting and supervising graduate students in his Lab. The active research projects in his Lab include Therapeutic anti-cancerous potential of Qatari Plants and The cytotoxic effects of electronic cigarette smoking on stem cells and Zebrafish.

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