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DR. FERAS FAWZI LAFI

Academic Rank: Assistant Professor / Microbiology

Date & Place of Birth: 07 . 07 . 1975

Nationality: Australia

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ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Degree	Major	Duration (From-To)	University	Country
Ph.D.	Microbiology	2002-2007	University of Queensland	Australia
M.Sc.	Microbiology	2000-2001	Queensland University of Technology	Jordan
B.Sc.	Medical Laboratory science	1994-1999	Ahlyia Amman University	Jordan

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Scopus Author ID:

ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6468-4104

Ph.D Thesis Title "Molecular Diversity, Culture and Evolutionary Relationships of Bacteria-Like Symbionts of Marine Sponges From The Great Barrier Reef"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Duration	Rank	Institution	Department/Faculty	Country
2020 – Now	Assistant Professor	Middle East University	Pharmacy	Jordan
2018 – 2019	Assistant Professor	Zayed University	Health science	UAE
2017 – 2018	Assistant Professor	American University of Madaba	Collage of Pharmacy/ Dept Medical Lab. Sci	Jordan

PUBLICATIONS

SCOPUS & ISI JOURNALS

1. Othoum G, Prigent S, Derouiche A, Shi L, Bokhari A, Alamoudi S, Bougouffa S, Gao X, Hoehndorf R, Arold ST, Gojobori T, Hirt H, Lafi FF, Nielsen J, Bajic VB, Mijakovic I, Essack M. Comparative genomics study reveals Red Sea Bacillus with characteristics associated with potential microbial cell factories (MCFs). Sci Rep 9, 19254 (2019)
2. Bokhari A, Essack M, Lafi FF et al. Bioprospecting desert plant Bacillus endophytic strains for their potential to enhance plant stress tolerance. Sci Rep 9, 18154 (2019) doi:10.1038/s41598-019-54685-y
3. Eida AA, Alzubaidy HS, De Zélicourt A, Synek L, Alsharif W, Lafi FF, Hirt H, Saad MM (2019). Phylogenetically diverse endophytic bacteria from desert plants induce transcriptional changes of tissue-specific ion transporters and salinity stress in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Plant Sci., 280:228-240.
4. Othoum G, Bougouffa S, Bokhari A, Lafi FF, Gojobori T, Hirt H, Mijakovic I, et al. (2019) Mining biosynthetic gene clusters in Virgibacillus genomes. BMC genomics 20 (1), 696
5. Eida AA, Ziegler M, Lafi FF, Michell CT, Voolstra CR, Hirt H, Saad MM (2018) Desert plant bacteria reveal host influence and beneficial plant growth properties. PLOS ONE 13(12): e0208223.
6. Othoum G, Bougouffa S, Razali R, Bokhari A, Alamoudi S, Antunes A, Gao X, Hoehndorf R, Arold ST, Gojobori T, Hirt H, Mijakovic I, Bajic VB, Lafi FF and Essack M (2018). In silico exploration of Red Sea Bacillus genomes for natural product biosynthetic gene clusters. BMC Genomics 19 (1): 382.
7. Andrés-Barrao C, Lafi FF, Alam I, De Zélicourt A, Eida AA, Bokhari A, Alzubaidy H, Bajic VB, Hirt H, Saad MM (2017). Complete genome sequence analysis of Enterobacter sp. SA187, a plant multi-stress tolerance promoting endophytic bacterium. Frontiers in Microbiology 8(2023).
8. Al-Amoudi S, Razali R, Essack M, Amini MS, Bougouffa S, Archer JA, Lafi FF, Bajic VB. Metagenomics as a preliminary screen for antimicrobial bioprospecting. *Gene*. 2016 Dec 15;594(2):248-258.
9. Al-Amoudi S, Essack M, Simões MF, Bougouffa S, Soloviev I, Archer JA, Lafi FF, Bajic VB. Bioprospecting Red Sea Coastal Ecosystems for Culturable Microorganisms and Their Antimicrobial Potential. *Mar Drugs*. 2016 Sep 10;14(9). pii: E165.
10. Ryu T, Seridi L, Moitinho-Silva L, Oates M, Liew YJ, Mavromatis C, Wang X, Haywood A, Lafi FF, Kupresanin M, Sougrat R, Alzahrani MA, Giles E, Ghosheh Y, Schunter C, Baumgarten S, Berumen ML, Gao X, Aranda M, Foret S, Gough J, Voolstra CR, Hentschel U, Ravasi T. Hologenome analysis of two marine sponges with different microbiomes. *BMC Genomics*. 2016 Feb 29;17:158.

2. CONFERENCES

1. **Lafi, F. F.**, T. K. Kim, D. Pearson, R. I. Webb, M. J. Garson, and J. A. Fuerst. (**2003**). Molecular analysis of microbial biodiversity in three sponge species from the Great Barrier Reef. Marine Biocomplexity Conference: 172.
2. **Lafi, F. F.,** M. J. Garson, I. Layton, and J. A. Fuerst. (**2002**). Culture and molecular identification of prokaryotes from microbial communities in the demosponges *P. clavata*, *Axinyssa* sp. & *R. globostellata* from the Great Barrier Reef. 6th International Sponge Conference 66-67:113.
3. Webb, R. I., M. Lindsay, M. Strous, M. S. Jetten, **F. Lafi** and J. A. Fuerst (**2004**). "Novel structural organisation of planctomycete bacteria." Proceedings of the 18th Australian Conference on Microscopy and Microanalysis: 128.
4. Webb, R., L. M. R., M. Strous, M. S. Jetten, **F. Lafi** and J. A. Fuerst (**2004**). "Novel compartmentalisation in planctomycete bacteria." Microscopy Society of America 10 (Suppl 2): 1528.
5. **Lafi, F.F.** (2010) Microbial community of the marine sponge *Ectyomyxilla methanophila* using pyrosequencing tagging at the Gulf of Mexico, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, China SAR (Hong Kong) (Invited speaker).
6. **Lafi, F.F.** (2011) PVC superphylum diversity in the Great Barrier Reef sponge *Rhabdastella globostellata,* cell structure studies of *poribacteria*-like cell structure. University of Wurzburg, Germany (Invited speaker).

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

1. R for Microbial Ecology, (University of Michigan, Detroit, USA, 2017)
2. Mothur (amplicon taxonomy) (University of Michigan, Detroit, USA, 2016)
3. Strategies and Techniques for Analyzing Microbial Population Structures (STAMPS) (Woods Hole, USA, 2013)
4. Introduction to Unix for Biology Workshop, (KAUST, Saudi Arabia, **2010**).
5. Occupational safety and health workshop (KAUST, Saudi Arabia, **2010**).
6. Molecular Evolution workshop (Woods Hole, USA, 2004)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interest is focused on studying microbial interactions with biological systems such as humans, animal, plants and the effect they exert on these systems (from a holobionts prospective). Big part of this interaction is selected through evolution to protect the host or provide a necessary element for their survival (e.g. production of antibiotics). I would like to focus my research on plant- microbe interactions and production of microbial based bioactive compounds. These compounds enhance plant growth and aids in plant protection from soil pathogens. I aim to harness those abilities and develop solutions to some of today's problems in health such as the discovery of new antimicrobial agents.

LANGUAGES

Arabic (Mother Tongue)

English (Excellent)

WORKSHOPS OFFERED

None

AWARDS RECEIVED

1. Excellent achievement in Bachelor degree, the rank was the First among (54) students. UQ international scholarship, University Of Queensland, 2004

2. UQ stipend scholarship, University Of Queensland, 2002

REFERENCES

Upon request