Aya Awad

Stanford Cancer Institute

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CURRENT POSITION

Postdoctoral Fellow at the lab of Prof. Steven Artandi
Stanford University, Stanford

EDUCATION

2016-2021 **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem**
Ph.D. in Genetics

2013-2016 **Bethlehem University, Bethlehem**
MSc in Biotechnology
Thesis topic: "Identification of novel mutations in ASPM and KMT2D Genes responsible for Primary Microcephaly and Kabuki syndrome in Palestinian Families."
Certificate with distinction

2009-2013 **Birzeit University, Birzeit**
BSc, Biology

2009-2013 **Birzeit University, Birzeit**
Diploma in science teaching

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020 The Mochrik Award of Excellence in Genetics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2018-2019 The Navon fellowship for PhD students from the periphery, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2019-2020 The Navon fellowship for Ph.D. students from the periphery, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2019-2021 STEP-GTP fund for graduate-level education for Israeli and Palestinian students who work in pairs

2018 Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds travel grant for an exchange visit to the Salk Institute

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Youth and Science Centre**,** The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel
Gained experience in developing course content, teaching science, performing interactive experiments, and developing critical thinking for minority elementary and high school students.

2019-2020 Al Bashaer program for outstanding Arab high school students
Feb-Jun 2019 Integrating practical science in Arab schools

Credentials

2016- 2017 City of hope Division of Clinical Cancer
Duarte, California
Intensive Course in Cancer Risk Assessment

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Feb-Apr 2019 The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Lab of Professor Jan Karlseder
San Diego, California
Exchange student as an awardee of a travel grant by the Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds

Jan-May 2016 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem
Researcher in the lab of Professor Yehuda Tzfati

Inherited mutations in RTEL1 lead to telomere dysfunction

2014-2015 Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem
Genetic alteration of mucosal melanoma in the Arab population

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Sep 2023-present Board member of the Science Training Encouraging Peace (STEP)

2018 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Organizing the 7th graduate students conference on Genetics, Genomics & Evolution Meeting

PUBLICATIONS

Awad, A. (2023). Science bridges political barriers. Cell, 186(6), 1088-1091.

Hourvitz, N., Awad, A., & Tzfati, Y. (2023). The many faces of the helicase RTEL1 at telomeres and beyond. Trends in Cell Biology

Kermasson, L., Churikov, D., Awad, A., Smoom, R., Lainey, E., Touzot, F., ... & Revy, P. (2022). Inherited human Apollo deficiency causes severe bone marrow failure and developmental defects. Blood, The Journal of the American Society of Hematology, 139(16), 2427-2440.

Awad, A., Glousker, G., Lamm, N., Tawil, S., Hourvitz, N., Smoom, R., ... & Tzfati, Y. (2020). Full length RTEL1 is required for the elongation of the single-stranded telomeric overhang by telomerase. Nucleic Acids Research, 48(13), 7239-7251.

Ziv, A., Werner, L., Konnikova, L., Awad, A., Jeske, T., Hastreiter, M., ... & Shouval, D. S. (2020). An RTEL1 mutation links to infantile-onset ulcerative colitis and severe immunodeficiency. Journal of Clinical Immunology, 40, 1010-1019.

Porreca, R. M., Glousker, G., Awad, A., Matilla Fernandez, M. I., Gibaud, A., Naucke, C., ... & Londoño-Vallejo, A. (2018). Human RTEL1 stabilizes long G-overhangs allowing telomerase-dependent over-extension. Nucleic Acids Research, 46(9), 4533-4545.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The Role of RTEL1 in Telomere Maintenance and Telomere Diseases, The 8th Genetics, Genomics and Evolution (GGE) meeting,Tel Aviv University, September 2019

Inherited Mutations in the DNA Helicase RTEL1 Compromise Telomere Elongation by Telomerase in Hoyeraal-Hreidarsson Syndrome, EMBO Workshop: Telomere biology in health and human disease, Troia, Portugal, 2018.

Inherited Mutations in the DNA Helicase RTEL1 Compromise Telomere Elongation by Telomerase in Hoyeraal Hreidarsson Syndrome, The UK-Israel Genome Stability Meeting, Jerusalem, March 2018.

Inherited Mutations in the DNA Helicase RTEL1 Compromise Telomere Elongation by Telomerase in Hoyeraal Hreidarsson Syndrome. Retreat of the Genetics department, the Hebrew University, March 2018.

Inherited Mutations In The DNA Helicase RTEL1Compromise Telomere Elongation By Telomerase In Hoyeraal Hreidarsson Syndrome, The 8th ILANIT/FISEB Conference, Ilat, Israel, February 2018.

Inherited mutations in RTEL1 leads to telomere dysfunction, The 6th Genetics, Genomics & Evolution Meeting, Bar Ilan University, Tel Aviv, September 2017.

Inherited Mutations in the DNA Helicase RTEL1 Compromise Telomere Elongation by Telomerase in Hoyeraal-Hreidarsson Syndrome, The 42nd FEBS congress meeting, Jerusalem, September 2017.

Awad, A. Zaleski, P. and Tzfati, Y. Inherited Mutations in The DNA Helicase RTEL1 Compromise Telomere Elongation by Telomerase In Hoyeraal-Hreidarsson Syndrome. The students' open day of the Genetics department, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, March 2017.