OMEED OMAR DARWEESH

TITLE OF EMPLOYMENT: **DEAN ASSISTANT FOR SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS**

SCIENTIFIC TITLE: **LECTURER**
COLLEGE: **PHARMACY**
NUMBER OF THE ROOM: **G8**

CONTACT

od54@uoalkitab.edu.iq

07700000000

https://www.uoalkitab.edu.iq/eng/

Iraq. Kirkuk

I studied Pharmacy at the University of Baghdad (2002) and did my PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Leicester (2019). My thesis investigated the molecular mechanism of Paclitaxel-induced cell death in human cells. I did my first-year post-doctoral work with prof. Bibek Gooptu at the University of Leicester where I examined the interaction between the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein receptor binding domain and Gal-3 fibrosome. My second-year post-doctoral work was with associate prof. Raj Patel where I examined the BAK requirement for BAX recruitment during Paclitaxel-induced activation of the mitotic checkpoint and cell death. My third-year postdoc research was with Dr Siang Boon Koh, our research focused on how deregulated biological pathways, such as the RAS signaling pathway, lead to tumor growth and progression. Our goal is to develop selective, synergistic treatment strategies that enable maximal tumour-cell killing and minimal host toxicity.

Research areas and most important published research

- Darweesh, O., Patel, R. PO-062 BAX and BAK interaction with the mitochondrial permeability transition pore (MPTP) is required for Taxol-mediated apoptosis ESMO Open 2018;3: doi: 10.1136/esmoopen-2018-EACR25.106, **Conference paper**.
- Darweesh, O., Al-Shehri, E., Falquez, H., Lauterwasser, J., Edlich, F. and Patel, R., 2021. Identification of a novel Bax–Cdk1 signalling complex that links activation of the mitotic checkpoint to apoptosis. **Journal of Cell Science**, 134(8).
- Darweesh, O., Abdulrazzaq, G.M., Al-Zidan, R.N., Bebane,

P., Merkhan, M., Aldabbagh, R. and AlOmari, N., 2021. Evaluation of the pharmacologic treatment of COVID-19 pandemic in Iraq. **Current Pharmacology Reports**, 7, pp.171-178.

- Al-Zidan, R., Darweesh, O., Salah, M., Bebane, P., Ahmed, H., Abdulrazzaq, G., Shanshal, S. and Alomari, N., 2023. Are some COVID-19 vaccines better than others regarding the short-term side effects? **Ceska a Slovenska Farmacie:** Casopis Ceske Farmaceuticke Spolecnosti a Slovenske Farmaceuticke Spolecnosti, 72(1), pp.45-54.
- Darweesh, O., Khatab, N., Kheder, R., Mohammed, T., Faraj, T., Ali, S., Ameen, M., Kamal-Aldin, A., Alswes, M. and Al-Jomah, N., 2022. Assessment of COVID-19 vaccination among healthcare workers in Iraq; adverse effects and hesitancy. **PLoS One**, 17(11), p.e0274526.
- Kheder RK, Darweesh O, Hussen BM, Abdullah SR, Basiri A, Taheri M. Mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs) as a therapeutic agent of inflammatory disease and infectious COVID-19 virus: live or dead mesenchymal?. **Molecular Biology Reports.** 2024 Dec;51(1):295.
- Muhammadamin, K.Y., Darweesh, O.O. and Alshawni, M.A., 2011. Evaluation of testosterone hormone and zinc levels among infertile males in Kirkuk province/Iraq. **Zanco Journal of Medical Sciences** (Zanco J Med Sci), 15(2), pp.34-39.
- Characterization of the Cdk1-Bax signalling complex that links activation of the Spindle Assembly Checkpoint to Mitotic Cell death. Eman Hassan Alshehri, Omeed Darweesh, Hajer Alfarteesh, Kees Straatman, Frank Edlich and Raj Patel. **Submitted to Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology. Manuscript ID: 1209904**
- CD98 is critical for a conserved inflammatory response to diverse injury stimuli relevant to IPF exacerbations and COVID pneumonitis. Wei Wang, Sara Rushwan, Panayiota Stylianou, M. Azim Miah, Omeed Darweesh, Alison Mackinnon, Katy M. Roach, Charlie J. Hitchman, Stephen

Thorpe, Christopher Harris, David F Richards, Vladimir Snetkov, Jessica Beasley, Sara IHC helpers, Jeremy PT Ward, Claire Rooney, Frank McCaughan, Peter Bradding, Richard Beale, Martin M Knight, Tariq Sethi, Bibek Gooptu. https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.08.12.503154v1#:~:text=CD98%20is%20required%20for%20interleukin,response%20in%20a%20mouse%20model.

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