

# Sadia Ashraf, Ph.D

## Academic accomplishments

2014 **PhD**, Cell Biology, University of Padua, Italy.

2010 **MSc** by Research, Membrane and Systems Biology, University of Leeds, UK.

2006 **MSc**, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, University of Punjab, Pakistan.

2003 **BSc**, Hons Environmental Sciences, Lahore University, Pakistan.

## Professional Honors

- Postdoctoral Best Poster Award, the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences, UMMC, 2017.
- Research grant from Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, March 2015.
- International scholarship for PhD covering tuition fee, boarding and lodging for Ph.D., University of Padua, Italy, 2011.
- Grant covering for registration, travel and accommodation for attending CRG symposium on Medical genome sequencing in Barcelona, 2010, Spain.
- Faculty of Biological Sciences Award for International students in University of Leeds, 2008.
- Distinction in M.Sc Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, 2006 (Silver Medalist).
- Academic Roll of Honour (BSc).

## Skills

- **Cell Culture and manipulation:** Cell culture and maintenance of different mammalian cell lines, cryopreservation of cells, transformation, stable and transient transfection, Cell based assays etc.
- Experience of working with protein and nucleic acid, vector designing, primer designing, cloning, PCR, protein expression using different promoters and purification with different tags, gel filtration etc.
- **Imaging:** immune-fluorescent staining and confocal imaging.
- **Animal work:** Motor neuron extraction from rat embryos, cortical and cerebellar neuronal cultures from rat pups, animal maintenance and work with mice and protozoan species.
- Statistics and computer skills: Biostat, Prism graphpad, Photoshop CS.

## Advanced Workshops

- Electron microscopy by Dr. Federico Caicci, University of Padova, Italy.
- Protein crystallization By Prof. G. Zanotti, University of Padova, Italy.
- Bioimaging by Prof. F. Mammano, University of Padova, Italy.
- Optogenetics by Tommaso Fellin Italian Institute of Technology, Genova, Italy.

- Scientific Publishing and communication, by Dr. Ralf Dahm, Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB), Mainz, Germany.

### **Selected Conferences**

- Skeletal muscle in denervation aging and cancer. 15-17 March 2013, Padua, Italy.
- Venoms. Bioactive compounds and therapeutics. 18-20 September 2012. Oxford, UK.
- Poster presentation. Study of mechanism of action of scorpion and bacterial neurotoxins.
- ABCD congress, Cell biology and differentiation. 8-10 September, 2011. Ravenna, Italy.
- Poster presentation. Tetanus and botulinum toxins need double anchorage to the membrane for entry into neurons.
- CRG Symposium 28-29 October. Barcelona, Spain. Poster presentation. Medical Genome Sequencing: Understanding the Genomes of Disease.

### **Research Experience**

**September 2016-Present:** Postdoctoral research fellow, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, UMMC, MS.

**2014- June 2016, Researcher and lecturer:** Lahore university of management sciences. I worked on following projects:

- Infectivity assays (HCV and HIV) to identify new potential therapeutics.
- Production of various soluble domains of CCR5 receptor protein and V3 region of HIV-1 envelope protein.

**2011-2014:** Ph.D thesis entitled as “**Study of mechanism of action of scorpion metalloprotease neurotoxins**”, University of Padua, Italy. The aim of project was to investigate and identify a unique class of scorpion neurotoxins capable of cleaving SNARE in rats and mice. And to understand the complete mechanism of action of scorpion metalloproteases in different models such as mice, rats and drosophila.

**2010: Research Technician,** Institute of membrane and systems biology, University of Leeds, UK

**2008-2010:** Research project as a requirement for MRes entitled as “**Adenine nucleotide**

**transporters as potential targets for novel anti-chlamydial drugs**” University of Leeds, UK.

**2007-2008:** Research Assistant at School of Biological Sciences, University of Punjab.

**2004-2006:** Research project as a requirement for M.Sc, titled as “**Molecular Characterization of capsular protein genes of *Pasteurella multocida* isolated from different localities in Pakistan**”.

**2003:** Three months experience of working with World wildlife Federation (Pakistan) on project related to the conservation of biodiversity in Pakistan.