



# Arab Toxicologists Association

of the Society of Toxicology

Special Interest Group  
Reception  
March 29, 2022  
Social Media:  
**#ATA\_SOT2022**



**Arab Toxicologists Association**  
of the Society of Toxicology



“

Welcome to  
ATA-SOT Annual  
Reception 2022!



## Reception Agenda

- Introduce ATA officers
- ATA Mission
- Financial Support
  - Dr. Burhan Ghanayem Award
- Awards & Awardees
- Accomplishments
  - Scientific Activates
  - Newsletter
  - Next steps
  - Membership Benefits
- ATA Timeline & Website
  - Student and Post-Doctoral Representatives
- Opening Discussion with All Attendees
  - Hold-on for the Virtual Picture!
- Reception closing
  - Direct Contact information- Survey



# 1. ATA officers

Social Media:  
[#ATA\\_SOT2022](#)

# ATA Officers 2021-2022



**President**  
Hanan Gbantous



**Vice President**  
Burhan Ghanayem



**Secretary**  
Nabila Mohamed



**Councilor**  
Saif A. Alharthy



**Councilor**  
Hadil Al Muhisen



**Councilor**  
Iyden Mohammed



**Vice President-Elect**  
Nabil Al-Humadi



**Past President**  
Hasan Alghetaa



**Treasurer**  
Amira Kamil  
Mohammed



**Postdoc representative**  
Osama Abdullah



**Graduate Representative**  
Saeed Alqahtani



**Graduate Representative**  
Noor Aly



# ATA New Officers 2022-2023



**President**  
Nabil Al-Humadi



**Vice President**  
Saif A. Alharthy



**Vice President-Elect**  
Maha Almazroaa



**Secretary / Treasurer**  
Amira Kamil Mohammed



**Past President**  
Hanan Ghantous



**Councilor**  
Hadil Almuhsen



**Councilor**  
Iyden Mohammed



**Postdoc representative**  
Osama Abdullah



**Graduate Representative**  
Saeed Alqahtani



# New Committee Representatives



**Award Committee**  
Nabila Mohamed



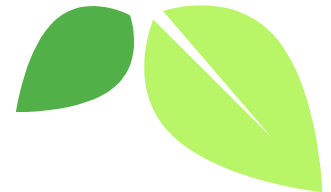
**Scientific Program  
Committee**  
Sahar Issa



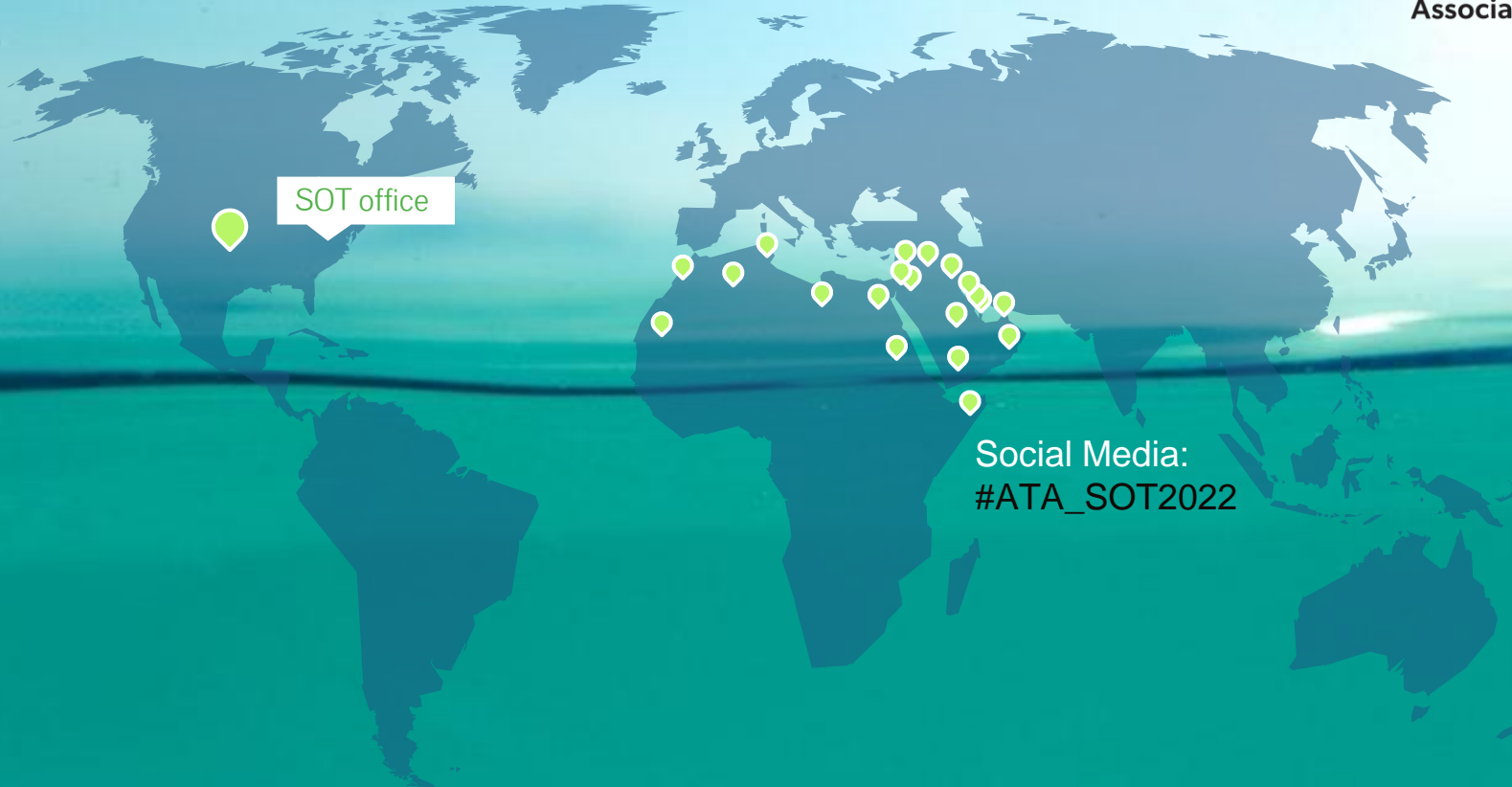
**Scientific Program  
Committee**  
Abeer Abdelwahab



**Newsletter Committee**  
Esraah Alharris



## 2. ATA Mission



Social Media:  
#ATA\_SOT2022





# Our Mission

Establish a Special Interest Group of Toxicologists from the Arab World with a major goal to effectively communicate toxicological ideas and support its members to succeed and achieve **Excellence in Toxicology** in the United States and worldwide.

E

A

Address current toxicological issues that affect Arab nations and increase **Awareness** of the involvement of toxic substances in causing diseases.

Promote the development of **Marginalized Branches** of toxicology in Arabic nations.

M

P

Promote the establishment of regional toxicology societies and of a **Pan Arab Toxicologist Association** to be an umbrella for all toxicology associations in all Arab countries.



Want big impact?

# 3. Financial Support



- ATA needs financial support from members and industries Student and Post-Doctoral Representatives
  - To promote the ATA mission
  - To support ATA members on their achievements
- Industries and Members who support ATA financial will be acknowledged in all ATA events and on the ATA SOT website
- **ATA support form on the website**

Special Thanks!  
Burhan Ghanayem







# DR. BURHAN GHANAYEM Outstanding Graduate Research Award

This award recognizes and celebrates a graduate student's success in carrying out high-quality research in Toxicological Sciences.

**\$500 and a plaque**



**ATA** SOT  
Arab Toxicologists  
Association Est. 2019

## 4. AWARDS & AWARDEES.



# Graduate Student Best Abstract Award

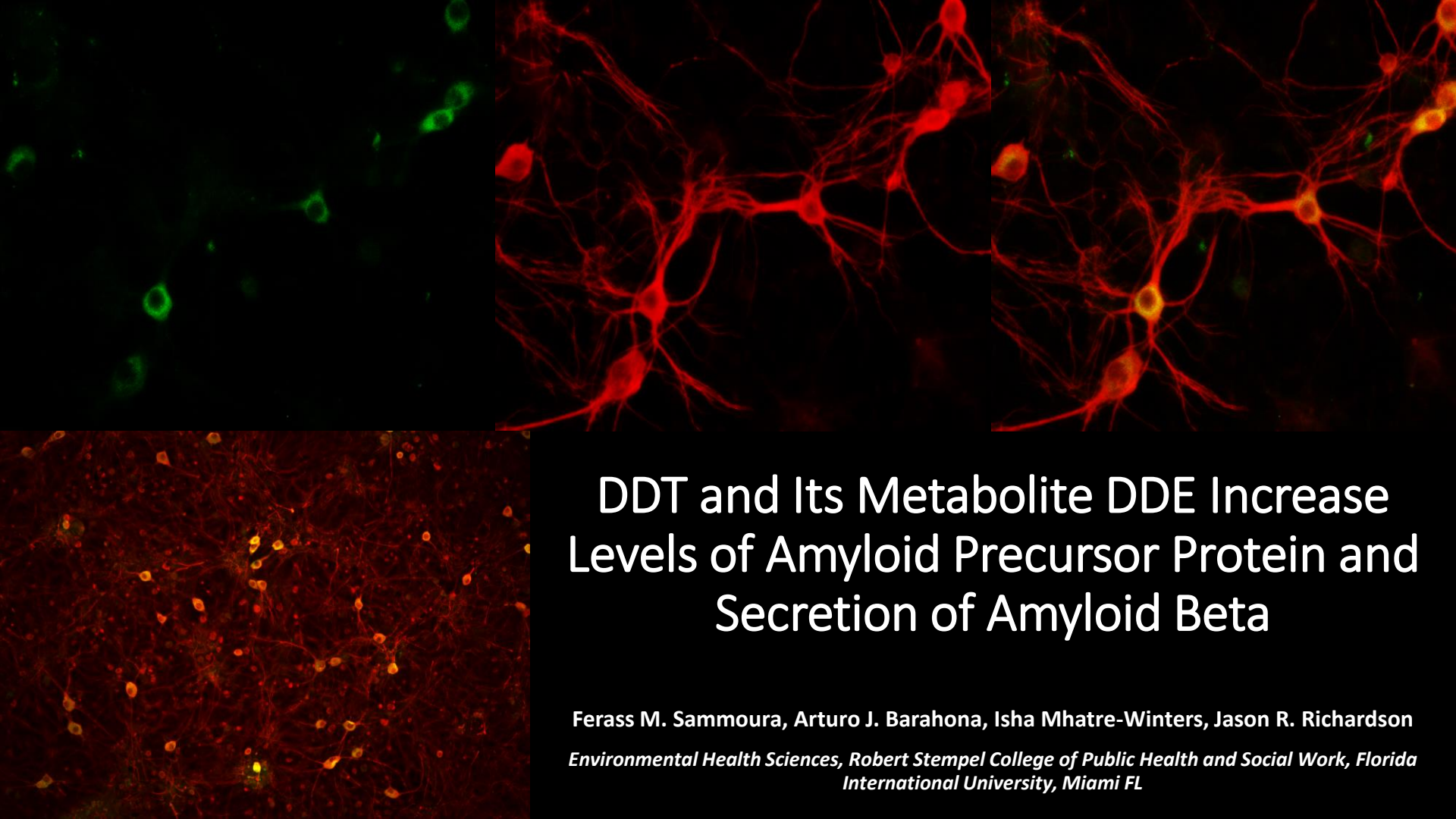


**Ferass Sammoura**  
**Florida International University**  
**(FIU)**



**Ola Wassel**  
**Purdue University**  
**(PU)**





# DDT and Its Metabolite DDE Increase Levels of Amyloid Precursor Protein and Secretion of Amyloid Beta

Ferass M. Sammoura, Arturo J. Barahona, Isha Mhatre-Winters, Jason R. Richardson  
*Environmental Health Sciences, Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Florida International University, Miami FL*

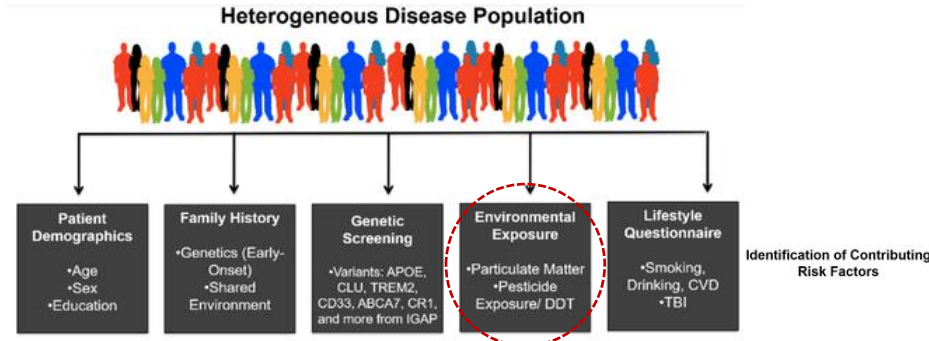
# Alzheimer's Disease (AD)

- Most common neurodegenerative disease, accounts for the majority of cases of dementia
  - ~930,000 Americans living with Parkinson's (2<sup>nd</sup> most common)
- **AD is not normal aging**
- Decline in memory and cognitive function
- Sporadic AD (>95% of cases) has a very complex etiology with various contributing risk factors. Importantly, different environmental exposures have been linked to AD.



alzheimer's association

*Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures 2020*



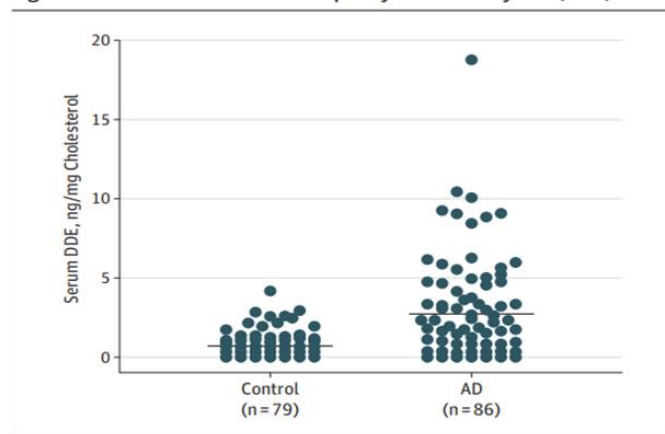
*Aseel Eid, Isha Mhatre, and Jason R. Richardson; Pharmacol. & Ther.*

## Original Investigation

# Elevated Serum Pesticide Levels and Risk for Alzheimer Disease

Jason R. Richardson, PhD; Ananya Roy, ScD; Stuart L. Shalat, ScD; Richard T. von Stein, PhD;  
 Muhammad M. Hossain, PhD; Brian Buckley, PhD; Marla Gearing, PhD;  
 Allan I. Levey, MD, PhD; Dwight C. German, PhD

Figure 1. Serum Levels of Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE)



Serum levels of DDE are elevated in Alzheimer disease (AD). Data were pooled from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Emory University. Levels of DDE are significantly higher in patients with AD (mean [SEM], 2.64 [0.35]) vs control participants (mean [SEM], 0.69 [0.10];  $P < .001$ ).

Table 2. Odds of AD per Tertile of DDE Distribution

Variable	Serum DDE Level, ng/mg Cholesterol/Tertile of Distribution			P Value <sup>a</sup>
	0.09-0.26	0.27-1.64	1.66-18.75	
Odds (95% CI) of AD diagnosis (n = 160)				
Adjusted for age, sex, race/ethnicity, and location	1 [Reference]	0.70 (0.19-2.55)	4.18 (2.54-5.82)	<.001
Adjusted for age, sex, race/ethnicity, location, and covariates <sup>b</sup>	1 [Reference]	0.54 (0.13-2.18)	3.40 (1.70-6.82)	<.001

# Hypothesis and Experimental Design

*Organochlorine pesticide DDT and its metabolite DDE modify the amyloid pathway and increase release of A $\beta$  and severity of amyloid pathology.*

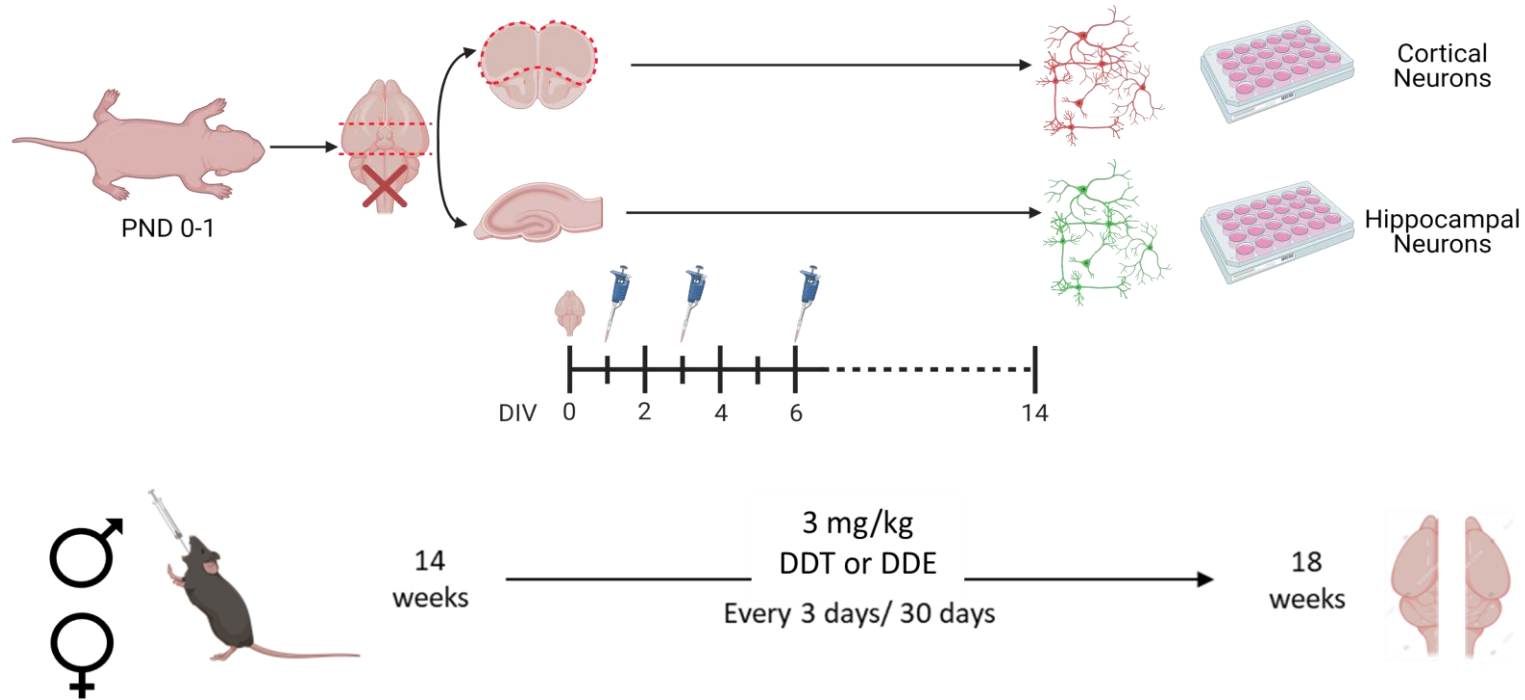




Figure 1: DDT and DDE increase APP levels and secretion of Aβ *in vitro*

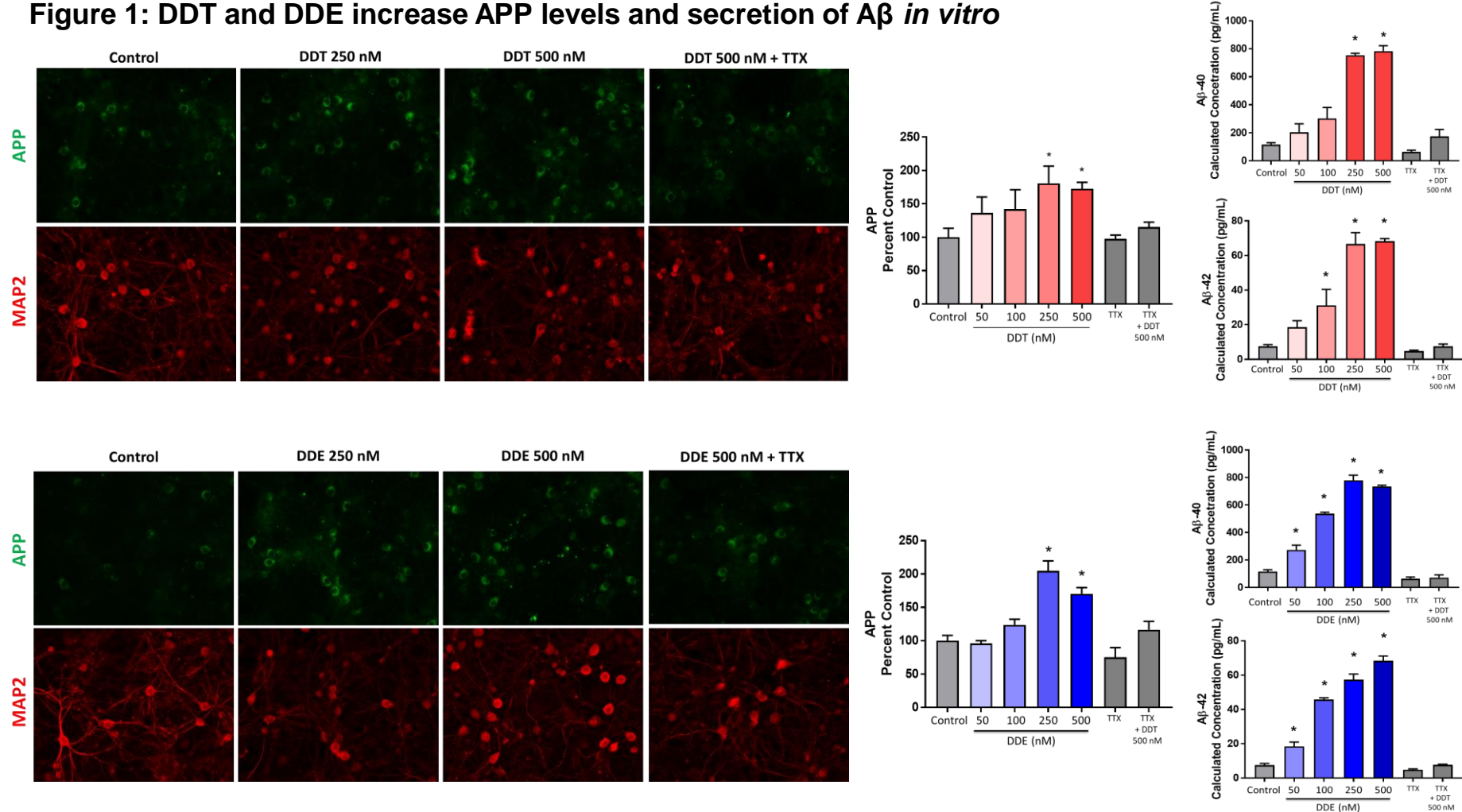
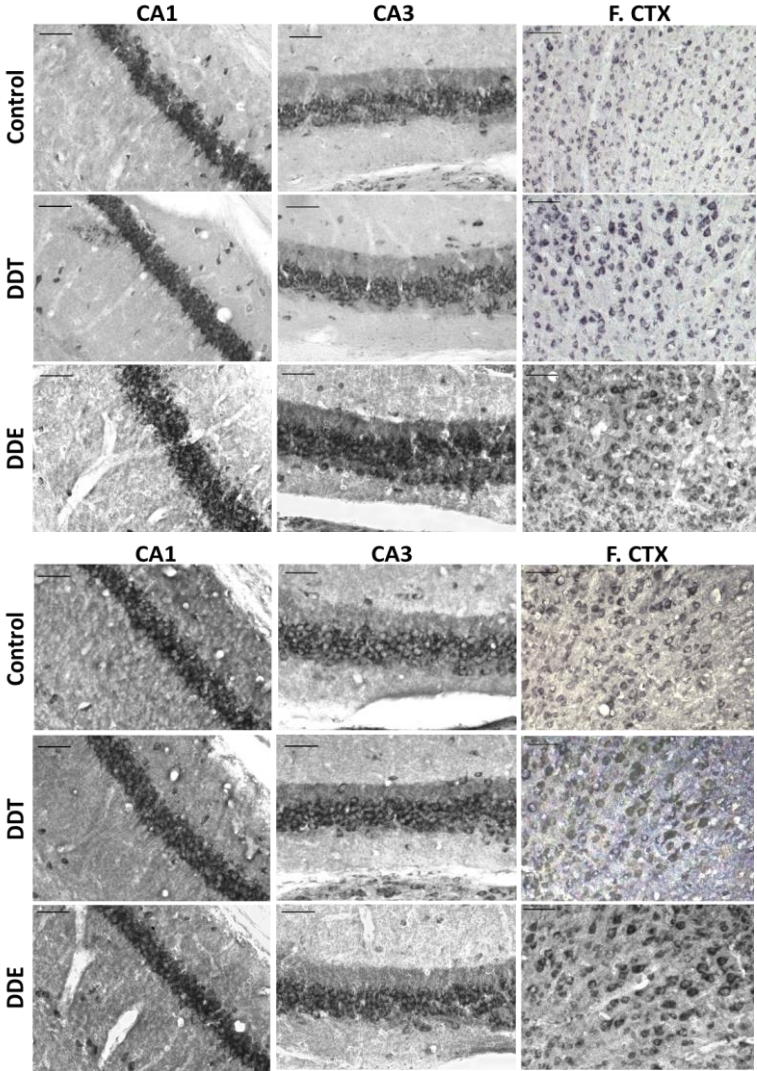
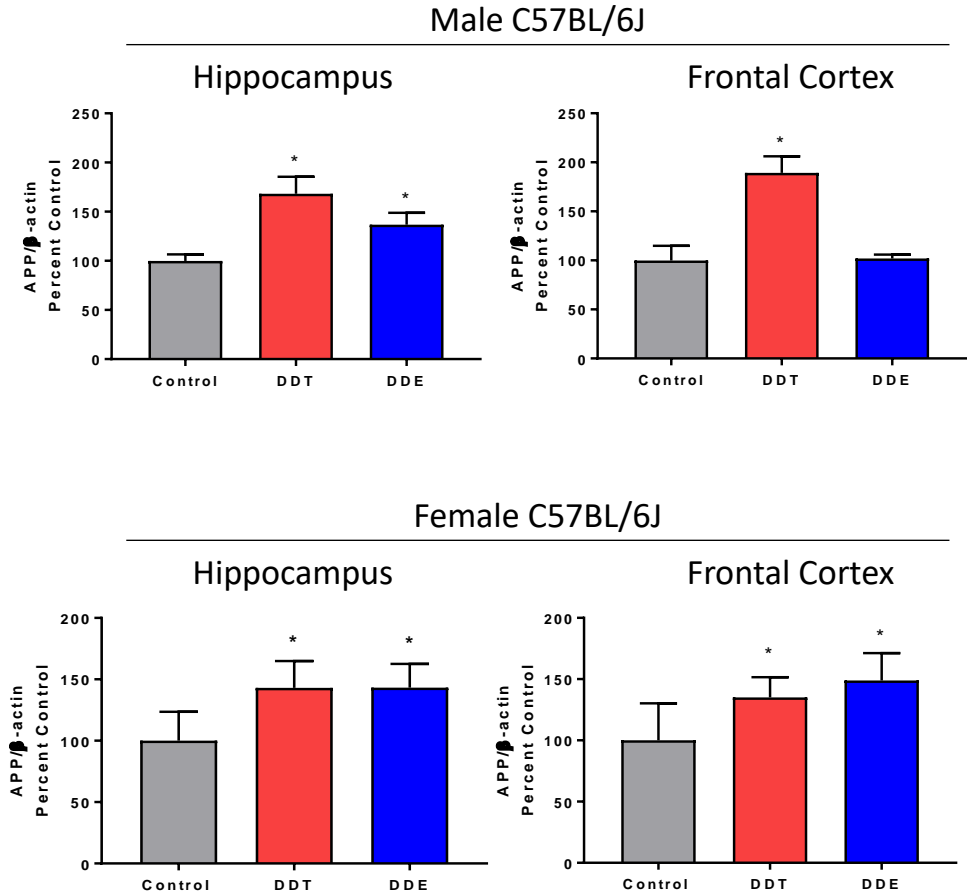


Figure 2: DDT and DDE increase APP levels *in vivo*

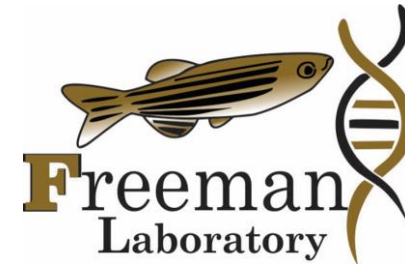


# Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank:
  - Dr. Jason R. Richardson
  - Dr. Isha Mhatre-Winters
  - Dr. Chunki Kim
  - Yoonhee Han, MS
  - Arturo Barahona, MPH
  - Nicole Blum, BS
- Arab Toxicologist Association Specialty Interest Group
- Society of Toxicology

Supported in part by NIH R01ES026057.





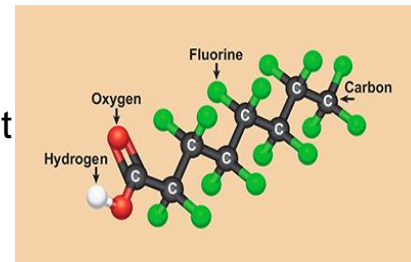
# Developmental Neurotoxicity of GenX and PFBS using Zebrafish Model

Ola Wasel<sup>1</sup>, Hanna King<sup>1</sup>, Youn J. Choi<sup>2,3</sup>, Linda S. Lee<sup>2,3</sup> and Jennifer L. Freeman<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Health Sciences, <sup>2</sup>Department of Agronomy, <sup>3</sup>Environmental and Ecological Engineering,  
Purdue University

# Introduction

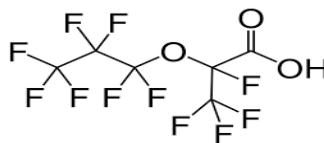
- Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Long-chain PFAS: Bioaccumulation and persistence in the environment
- Alternatives: GenX and PFBS
- Limited information on neurotoxicity of short-chain PFAS



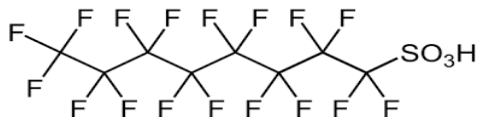
<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/pfc/index.cfm>



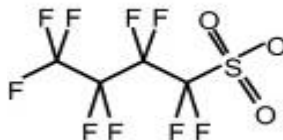
PFOA, C8



GenX (C6)



PFOS, C8



PFBS (C4)



<https://www.columian.com/news/2015/mar/03/refighting-foam-contaminated-northeast-portland-groundwater/>

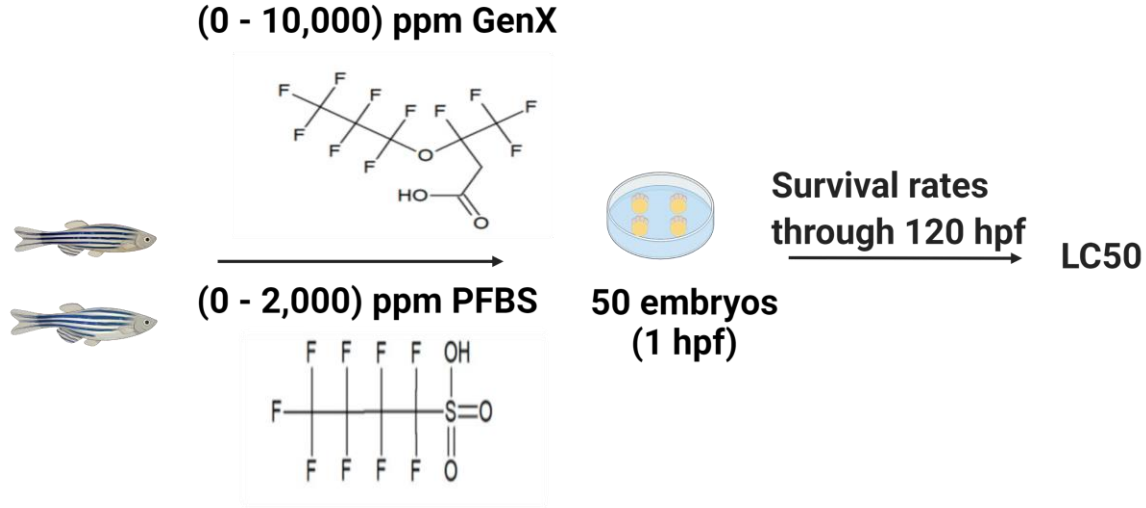
# Hypothesis

Exposure to GenX or PFBS will result in developmental neurotoxicity targeting the dopaminergic neurons in zebrafish larvae



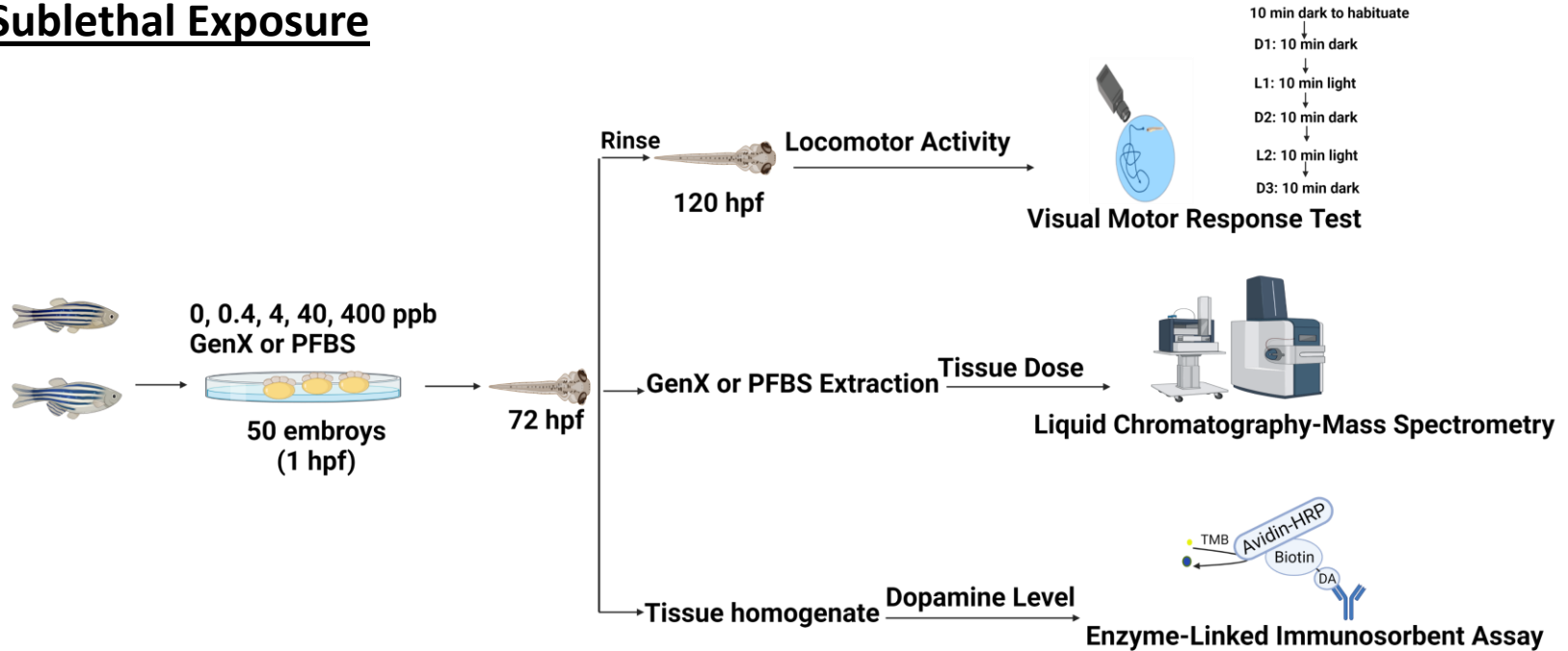
# Experimental Design

## Lethal Exposure



# Experimental Design (Cont'd)

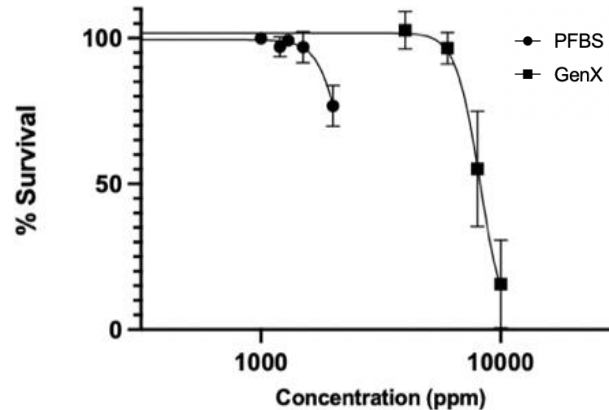
## Sublethal Exposure



# Assessing LC50 of GenX and PFBS

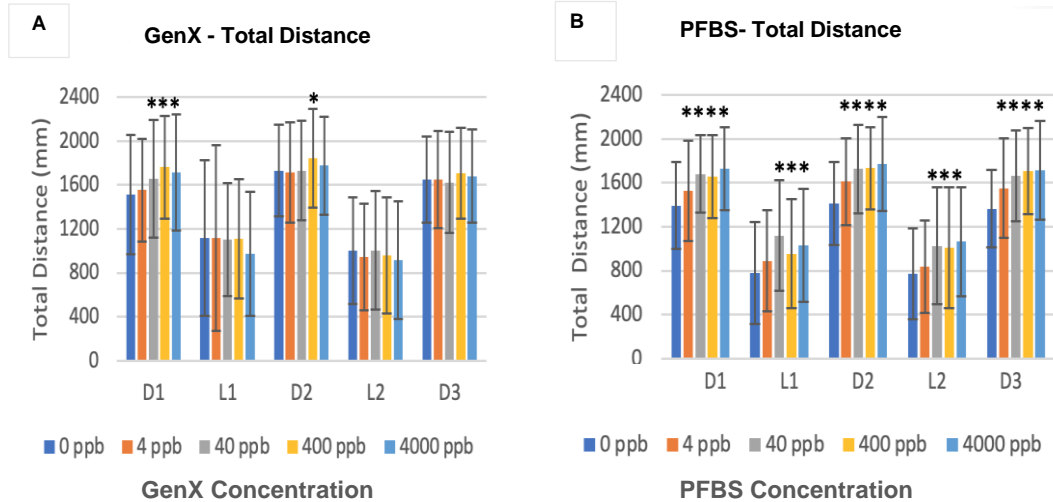
❖ LC50 of GenX is 8176 ppm (95% CI: 7658-8686)

❖ LC50 of PFBS >2000 ppm



N=3, 50 subsamples/replicates.  
Error bars are standard error.

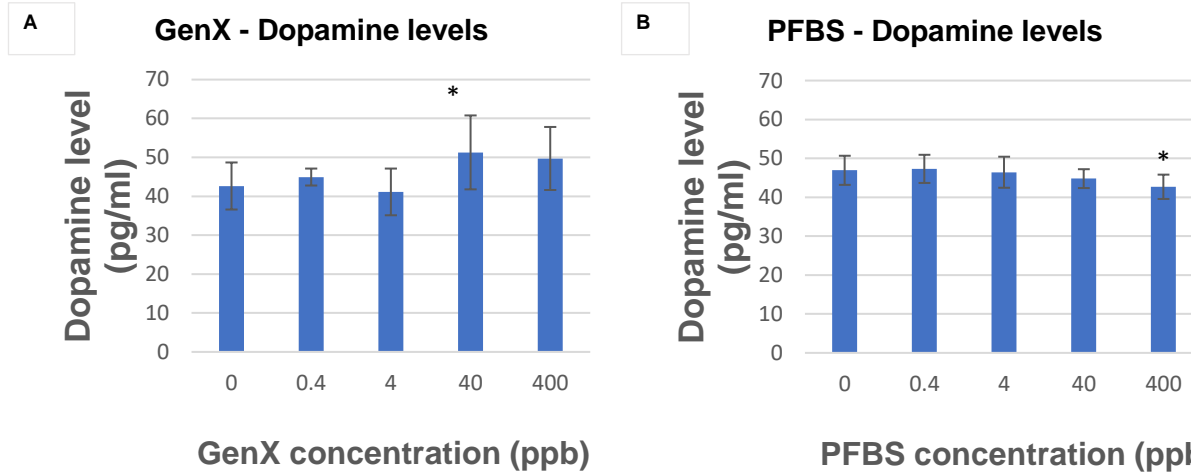
# Visual Motor Response Test



Total distance moved by larvae at 120 hpf exposed to GenX (A) or PFBS (B) from 1-72 hpf during dark and light phases in the visual motor response test. GenX exposure resulted in hyperactivity in first two dark phases, while PFBS exposure caused persistent hyperactivity in all tested exposures.

- \* $p < 0.05$ , Error bars represent standard deviation.
- D: Dark phase, L: Light phase
- N=6-7, with 15-19 subsamples per treatment per replicate to total 111-132 larvae per treatment analyzed.

# Measurement of Dopamine Levels



Dopamine levels at 72 hpf with exposure to GenX (A) or PFBS (B) from 1-72 hpf. Exposure to 400 ppb PFBS caused significant increase in dopamine level, while exposure to 40 ppb GenX caused decrease in dopamine level, highlighting different mechanisms of action.

- N=5-7 (pools of 70 larvae), \* $p < 0.05$ , Error bars are standard deviation.

# Conclusions and Future Directions

- ❖ Acute toxicity of short chain PFAS is less than long chain PFAS
- ❖ Short chain PFAS caused similar or higher behavioral changes in zebrafish larvae compared to PFOA and PFOS
- ❖ PFSA caused higher behavior changes compared to PFCA
- ❖ The behavioral changes pattern for each chemical is unique
- ❖ GenX and PFBS exposure caused alterations in dopamine levels
- ❖ Tissue dose analysis showed dose-dependent absorption of GenX and PFBS
- ❖ Assessment of gene expression of gene related to dopaminergic neurons development will be performed



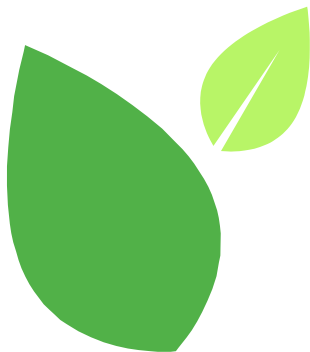
# Acknowledgments

- ❖ Dr. Jennifer Freeman
- ❖ Dr. Linda Lee
- ❖ Hanna King
- ❖ Dr. Younjeong Choi
- ❖ Freeman Lab

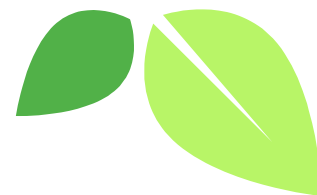
## **Funding**

- ❖ University of Illinois at Chicago—NIOSH Pilot Project Research Training Program (Grant # T42/OH008672)
- ❖ University of Cincinnati Education and Research Center- NIOSH Pilot Project Research Training Program (Grant #T42OH008432)
- ❖ National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (Grant # 1R21 ES031646-01A1)

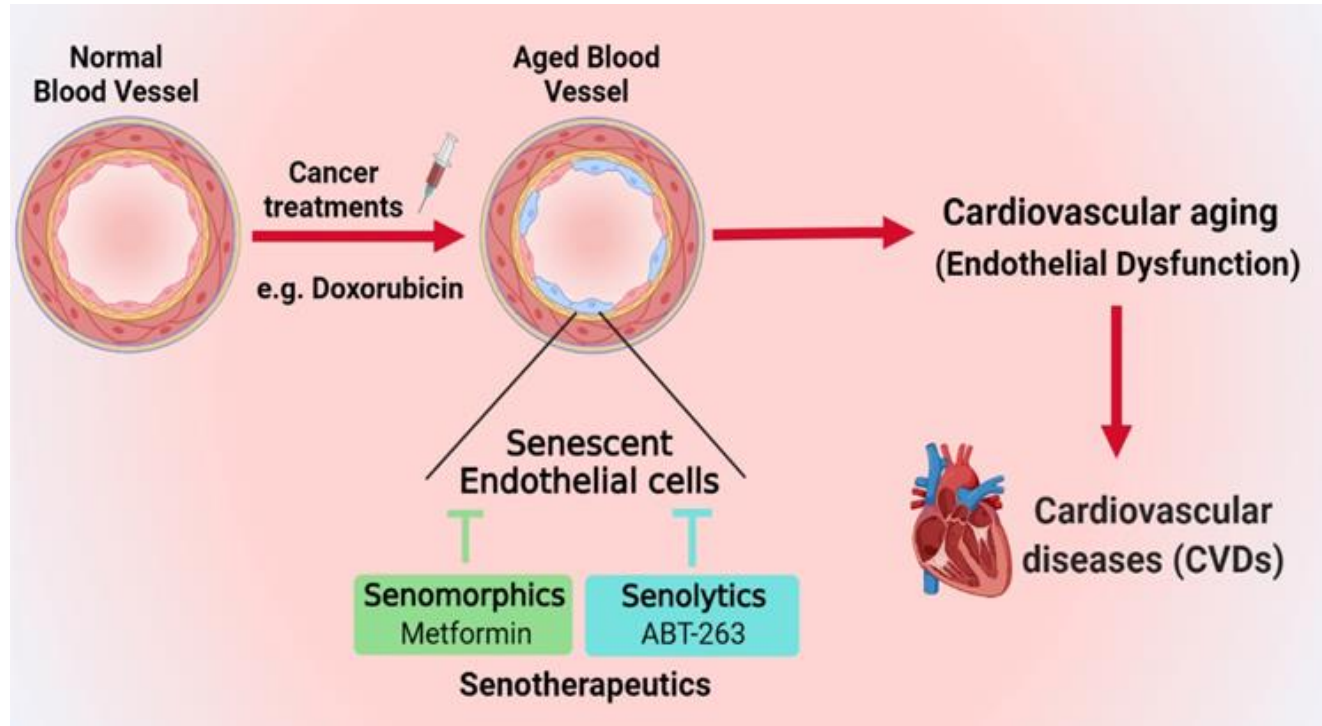
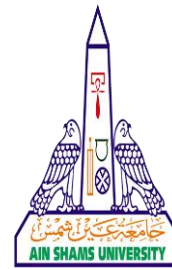
# DR. BURHAN GHANAYEM Outstanding Graduate Research Award



**Ibrahim Abdelgawad**  
**University of Minnesota**  
**(UMN)**



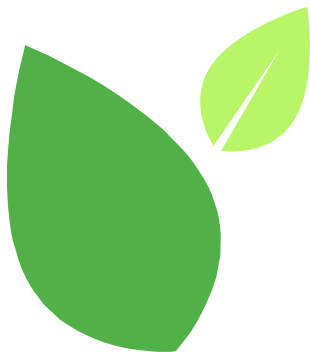
# “Molecular Mechanisms and Cardiovascular Ramifications of Doxorubicin-induced Senescence”



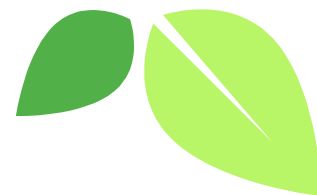




# Distinguished Scientific Presentation Award



**Muthanna Sultan**  
**University of South Carolina**  
**(USC)**



**The Protection Mediated by Endocannabinoid  
Anandamide Against Staphylococcus Enterotoxin  
B-induced Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome is  
Regulated Through microRNA that Trigger Pro-  
apoptotic Genes in Immune cells**

**Muthanna Sultan, Ph.D.  
University of South Carolina/Columbia  
School of Medicine  
Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology**






# Best Publication Award

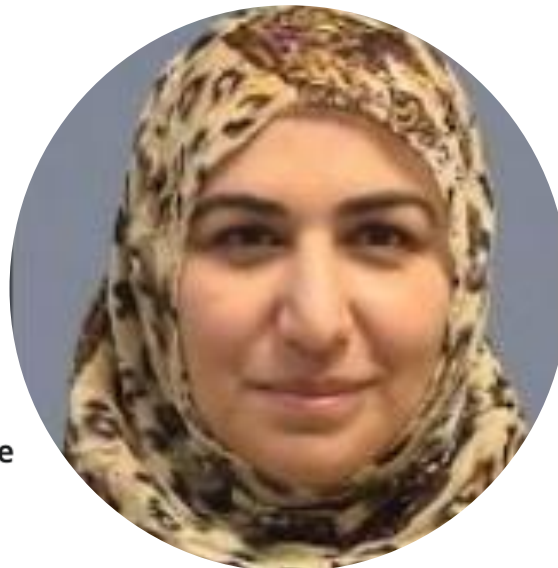


RESEARCH PAPER | [Free Access](#)

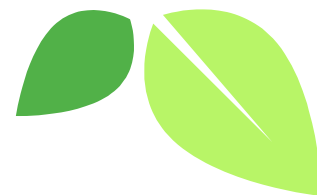
## Protective effects of $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol against enterotoxin-induced acute respiratory distress syndrome are mediated by modulation of microbiota

Amira Mohammed, Hasan K. Alghetaa, Juhua Zhou, Saurabh Chatterjee, Prakash Nagarkatti, Mitzi Nagarkatti 

First published: 04 August 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/bph.15226> | Citations: 12



**Amira Mohammed**  
**University of Baghdad**

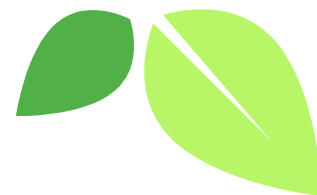


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# SOT travel funding for the Graduate Student



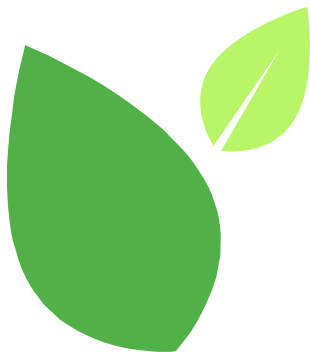
**Ola Wassel**  
**Purdue University (PU)**



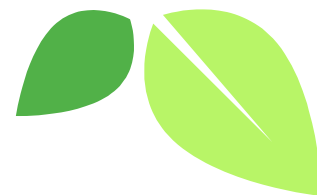




# Outstanding Professional Award



**Mohammad Salamah**  
**American University in Cairo**





# Translational Neurodegeneration

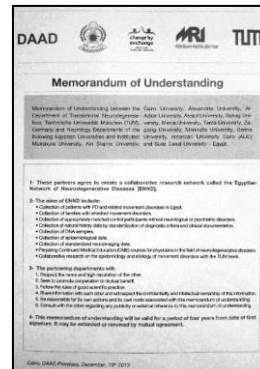
## *ENND Experience*

Mohamed Salama, MD PhD



# The ENND

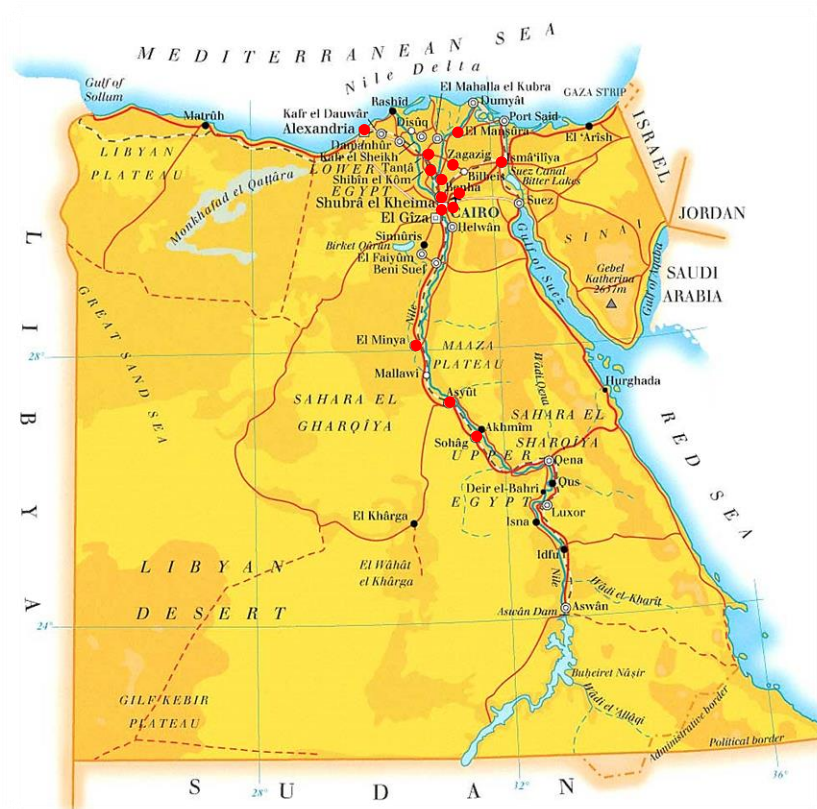
**In December 2013 we founded the „Egyptian Network for Neurodegenerative Diseases“.**



14 Egyptian universities and TUM coordinators signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The aim was to build up a network where neurology departments in Egypt work together in studying neurodegenerative diseases.

# The ENND



● Location of Partner University



**ENND**  
EGYPTIAN NETWORK  
FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

Mansoura University  
Cairo University  
American University Cairo  
Ain-Shams University  
Al-Azhar University  
Alexandria University  
Asyut University  
Tanta University  
Zagazig University  
Menoufia University  
Sohag University  
Al-Minya University  
Benha University  
Suez Canal University

# Errors!



## ARTICLE

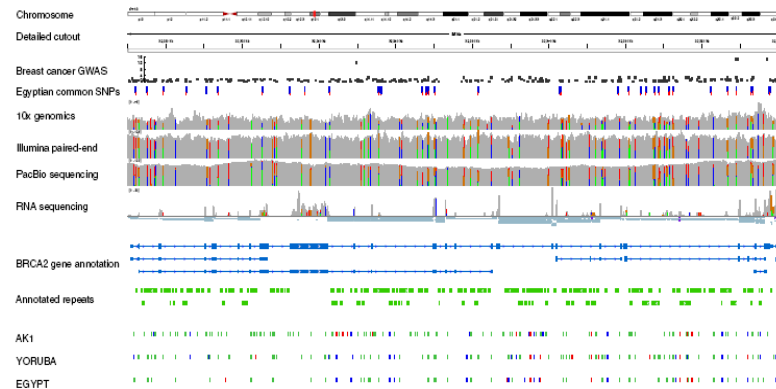
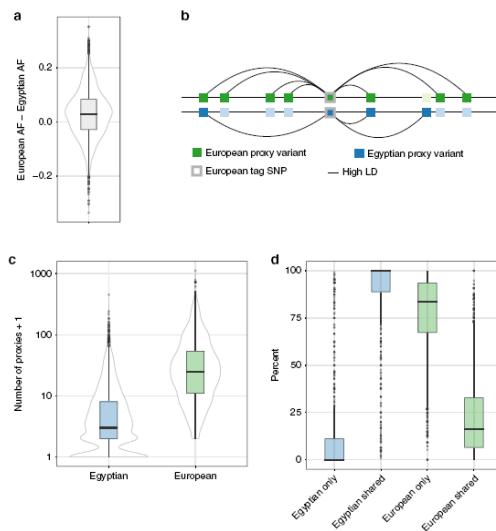
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-17964-1>

OPEN



# An integrated personal and population-based Egyptian genome reference

Inken Wohlers<sup>1</sup>, Axel Künstner<sup>1</sup>, Matthias Munz<sup>1</sup>, Michael Olbrich<sup>1</sup>, Anke Fährnich<sup>1</sup>,  
Verónica Calonga-Solís<sup>1,2</sup>, Caixia Ma<sup>3</sup>, Misa Hirose<sup>4</sup>, Shaaban El-Mosallamy<sup>5</sup>, Mohamed Salama<sup>5,6</sup>,  
Hauke Busch<sup>1,7,8</sup> & Saleh Ibrahim<sup>1,4,7,8</sup>



# Towards a Longitudinal Study of Egyptian Healthy Aging

February 27, 2020

As our GBHI delegation walked through downtown Cairo, one of the most densely populated cities in the world, we were immediately struck by the lack of grey-haired men and women. Demographic data for Egypt showed us that our observations were correct; less than 5% of the Egyptian population are aged 65 years and older.

However, that's set to change. And fast.

Like many other low and middle income countries; Egypt's future includes a significant increase in older adults. As one local we met wryly observed

## Authors



The GBHI team were joined by Dr Ann Hever, Research Manager with [The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing \(TILDA\)](#); Professor Kenneth Langa, Associate Director of [the Health and Retirement Study](#) (HRS) and Professor Axel Borsch-Supan, Managing Director of the [Surveying the Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe \(SHARE\)](#) study.

[Home](#) » [International Profile](#) » [TUM Global Locations](#) » [TUM Global News](#)

## TUM Cairo: Surveying Health, Aging and Retirement in the Middle East

11.12.2019

With the aim of starting a dialogue in the field of aging studies, the high-level kick-off meeting **Surveying Health, Aging and Retirement in the Middle East** took successfully place in Cairo on November 24. The event was hosted by the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) and co-organized by TUM Cairo. It featured the attendance of guest speaker and expert Prof. Axel Börsch-Supan, Professorship Economics of Aging at the TUM School of Management.



GIVING LIFE TO AGING

# EM-AGE

Website Content & Mood board proposal



## Ribbon Induction

THE AGING GENERATION DESERVES  
MORE

EM-AGE aims to support senior health policies, raise awareness on determinants of age-related diseases and advocate for better health policies and recommendations for the EM region's older population. We will be inducting a new ribbon in honor of our demographic which will be known as the Golden Ribbon.







The ENND.  
It's just the  
beginning.

Thank you for your attendance.



# 5. ATA Accomplishments



## Webinars

- Event title: “Overview of Non-Clinical Safety Assessment for Vaccines and Antiviral Drug Development.”
  - Joined with American Association of Chinese in Toxicology (AACT)
  - The University of Baghdad
  - Chinese Toxicology Society

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE IN TOXICOLOGY

北美中華毒理協會

ATA<sup>SOT</sup> Est. 2019  
Arab Toxicologists Association

**Guest Speakers:**



**Dr. Hanan Ghantous**  
USFDA/CDER



**Dr. Nabil Al-Humadi**  
USFDA/CBER

**Contact information**  
[Yongbin.Zhang@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Yongbin.Zhang@fda.hhs.gov) (AACT)  
[Saif.Alharthy14@Stjohns.edu](mailto:Saif.Alharthy14@Stjohns.edu) (ATA)

**Society of Toxicology  
AACT & ATA  
WEBINAR**

**Overview of Non-Clinical  
Safety Assessment for  
Antiviral Drugs and Vaccines  
Development**

**May 26, 2021  
9:00 - 10:30 am (EDT)**

An introductory overview of drug development and nonclinical safety assessment for drugs and biologics in general and specifically antivirals including COVID-19

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective life-saving interventions in human history

Developing Drugs with direct antiviral activity, immunomodulatory activity, or other mechanisms of action

Please register and join us in this virtual event following the link below:





Ahmed Abdelmoneim, BVMS, MSc, PhD



## Webinars

- Upcoming New Webinar
- Event title: “ Overview of Bioinformatic Sequence Analysis and Applications in Toxicology.”

Tamer A. Mansour, MBChB, MSc, PhD







Saeed Alqahtani, MS, PhD Candidate

**Best Publication Award**



Mohamed Ghorab, MS, PhD

**Outstanding Professional Award**



Christiana Awada, BSc, Master Student

**Graduate Student Best Abstract**



## Awardees



Increased the number of awardees  
and the available awards







# Want big impact? Join Us Today!

Social Media:  
#ATA\_SOT2022

# Members Joined Today!

## First 10 members:

- Promote their activities through newsletters
- One-on-One connection with toxicologists experts
- Support in achieving their career goals

## Second 10 members:

- One-on-One connection with toxicologists experts
- Support in achieving their career goals

## Third 10 members:

- Support in achieving their career goals



A close-up photograph of a vibrant green leaf, showing its intricate vein structure. Numerous small, clear water droplets are scattered across the leaf's surface, reflecting light. A semi-transparent dark green horizontal band is positioned across the middle of the image, serving as a background for the text.

# Experience Share from A Graduate Representative



## 🌿 Promote Graduate Students Success!

- 🌿 Connecting with researchers
- 🌿 Advancing teamwork skills



**Graduate Representative**  
Saeed Alqahtani

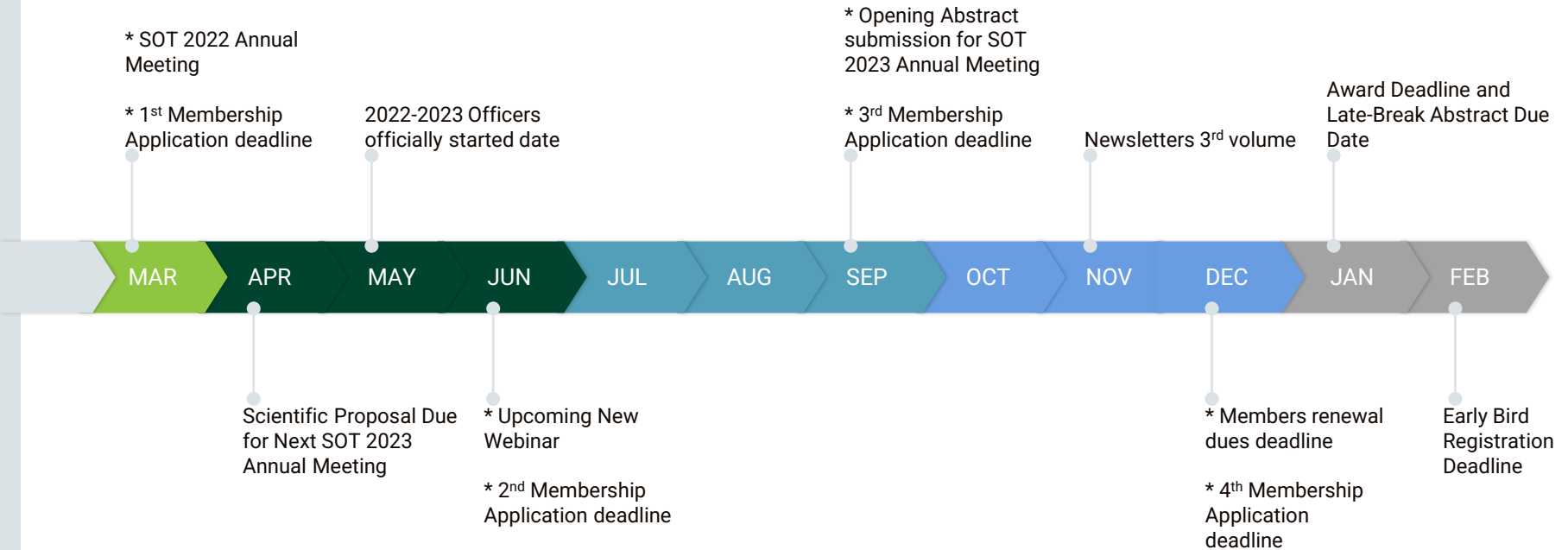


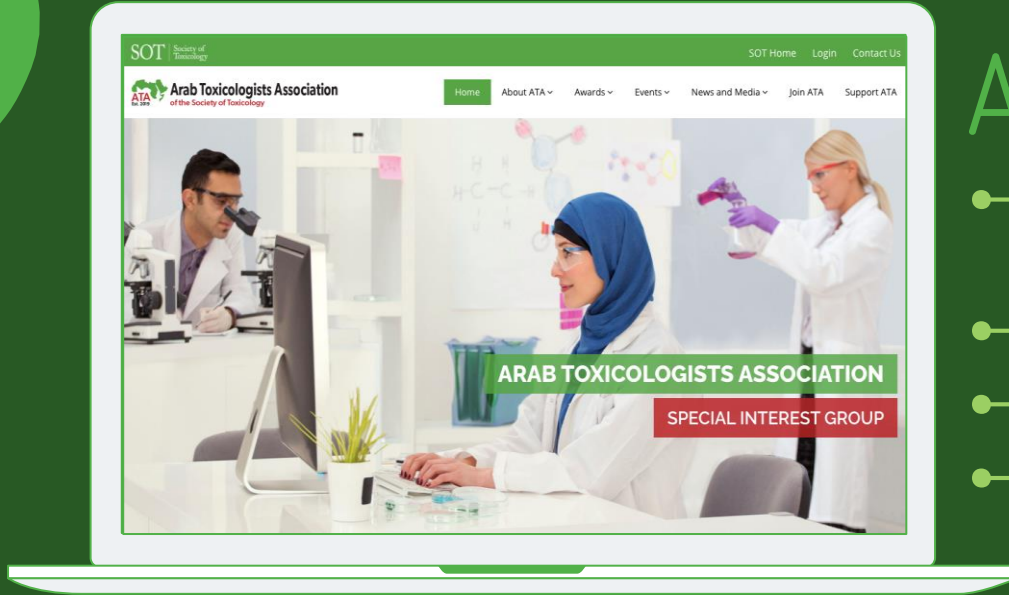
## 2. ATA SOT Timeline

Social Media:  
[#ATA\\_SOT2022](#)



# Timeline





# ATA SOT Website

- Membership Benefits and how to join
- ATA support form
- Awards and Awardees
- Past and upcoming webinars

# Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find us at:

- ☐ ATA SOT website  
[www.toxicology.org/groups/sig/ATA/index.asp](http://www.toxicology.org/groups/sig/ATA/index.asp)
- ☐ Survey form to receive due Mar 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
[ATA SOT Attendance Certificate](#)

