

# Twana Alkasalias

Iraq, Kurdistan, Erbil, Ankawa, Ashty

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## Personal Information

Day of birth January 10, 1983  
Place of birth Erbil, Iraq  
Nationality Iraqi



**Languages** Fluent in Syriac, Arabic, English and Kurdish; basic skills in Swedish

## Personal Profile

- Proactive and creative Student.
- Experienced in working independently.
- Ability to meet deadlines and accurate recording and analysis.
- Teaching Experience with master and undergraduate student.

## Education

2013-2018 Karolinska Institutet, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Stockholm, Sweden; PhD in cell and Tumor Biology.  
2017 Modern leadership skill program, Smart Business Academy AB, Stockholm, Sweden.  
2007- 2010 University of Dohuk, College of Education, department of Biology, Dohuk, Kurdistan-Iraq; MSc. in Molecular physiology.  
2000-2004 University of Salahaddin, Erbil, College of science, department of Biology. Erbil, Kurdistan-Iraq; BSc in Biology.

## Scholarships

2012 Human capacity Development program round 3: the first of top 3 selected candidates out of hundreds of applicants. Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraq.  
2016 Robert Lundbergs grants: research funds for PhD Student, Stockholm, Sweden.

## Teaching Experience

2010 Graduated from Teaching methods course in Salahaddin University, Erbil, Kurdistan-Iraq  
2010 - 2013 Lecturer at University of Salahaddin; Erbil, Kurdistan-Iraq.  
2010 - 2013 Undergraduate student research supervisor, University of Salahaddin, Kurdistan-Iraq  
2014 - 2016 Supervising master and undergraduate student at Geroge Klein lab ,Karolinska Institutet, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Stockholm, Sweden.

## Skills

- Highly experienced in many lab techniques and Methods including gene cloning, Lenti viral transduction, Western blot, Immunostaining, Immunohistochemistry, Flow cytometry and TIRF Microscopy.
- Qualified for initiating new high throughput methods using TIRF and Fluorescent Microscopy.

- Experienced in running and developing high throughput system to study cell proliferation, motility and Migration.
- Experienced in image processing.
- Well experienced using Image J software in order to analyze different large data sets and images. Experienced in using ZEN software which is compatible with different automated-high advanced TIRF microscopes. Able to use Open lab software for writing machine learning softwares.
- Strong communication/presentation skills.
- presented data clearly and confidently to both small and large groups, at home or abroad, in English, Arabic, as well as in Kurdish, adapting style and content to the level of knowledge and understanding of others
- Strong synthesizing, writing, and information technology skills.
- Wrote scientific articles in international peer-reviewed journals, as well as the highly technical replies to the questions raised by the reviewers. Wrote funding application and produced regular progression reports.
- Confident in use of various software packages.
- collaborated and communicated at all professional levels, and with people from diverse origins and cultures. Can work both independently and in team settings.
- Managed and planned several projects and collaborations in parallel, work to achieve goals on time, set accurate objectives, developed creative solutions to problems. Used to seek and critically assess large amounts of information, to define the cause of problems, determine available options to move things forward.

## Publications

- 1- **Alkasalias T**, Flaberg E, Kashuba V, Alexeyenko A, Pavlova T, Savchenko A, Szekely L, Klein G, and Guven H. Inhibition of tumor cell proliferation and motility by fibroblasts is both contact and soluble factor dependent. ***Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A***. 2014 Dec 2; 111(48):17188-93. **IF: 9.6**
- 2- Alexeyenko A\*, **Alkasalias T\***, Pavlova T, Szekely L, Kashuba V, Rundqvist H, Wiklund P, Egevad L, Csermely P, Korcsmaros T, Guven H, and Klein G. Confrontation of fibroblasts with cancer cells in vitro: gene network analysis of transcriptome changes and differential capacity to inhibit tumor growth. ***J Exp Clin Cancer Res***. 2015 Jun 18; 34:62. \* Equal contribution. **IF: 6.2**
- 3- **Alkasalias T**, Alexeyenko A, Hennig K, Danielsson F, Lebbink RJ, Fielden M, Turunen SP, Lehti K, Kashuba V, Madapura HS, Bozoky B, Lundberg E, Balland M, Guvén H, Klein G, Gad AK, and Pavlova T. RhoA knockout fibroblasts lose tumor-inhibitory capacity in vitro and promote tumor growth in vivo. ***Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A***. 2017 Feb 21; 114(8): E1413-E1421. **IF: 9.6**
- 4- Liu C, Zhang Y, Lim S, Hosaka K, Yang Y, Pavlova T, **Alkasalias T**, Hartman J, Jensen L, Xing X, Wang X, Lu Y, Nie G, and Cao Y. A Zebrafish Model Discovers a Novel Mechanism of Stromal Fibroblast-Mediated Cancer Metastasis. ***Clin Cancer Res***. 2017 Aug 15; 23(16):4769-4779. **IF: 10.1**
- 5- Ujvari D, Jakson I, Oldmark C, Attarha S, **Alkasalias T**, Salamon D, Gidlöf S, and Hirschberg AL. Prokineticin 1 is up-regulated by insulin in decidualizing human endometrial stromal cells. ***J.Cell Mol Med***. 2017 Aug 7. doi: 10.1111/jcmm.13305. **IF: 5.49**

- 6- **Alkasalias T**, Moyano-Galceran L, Arsenian-Henriksson M, Lehti K. Fibroblasts in the Tumor Microenvironment: Shield or Spear? *Int J Mol Sci*. 2018 May 21;19(5). pii: E1532. doi: 10.3390/ijms19051532. **IF: 3.2**

### Academic Activities

- 2016-2018 Member in FOTO program committee; PhD-training program in Tumor biology and Oncology organizing training program and offering annual training courses in basic tumor biology (from molecule to patient). At Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2016-2017 Initiating Journal Club for PhD and Master student at Karolinska Institutet, Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Stockholm, Sweden.

### Extracurricular Activities

- 2006-2010 Member of administrative board at Ankawa Social Youth Club; an NGO in Erbil, Kurdistan-Iraq.
- 2007-2010 Editor in Journal of ELIAMOOTH, issued in Erbil, Kurdistan-Iraq
- 2010-2011 Vice President of Ankawa Social Youth Club; a NGO in Erbil, Kurdistan-Iraq.
- 2012 Ankawa Radio administrative and constitution board.
- 2012 Radio presenter; presenting a social program deals with pure social problems. In Erbil, Kurdistan-Iraq.

### Conferences

- 2010 The 3rd Kurdistan Conference on Biological Sciences, Dohuk, Kurdistan-Iraq.
- 2013 The 2nd International Conference on Tumor Microenvironment and Cellular Stress: Signaling, Metabolism, Imaging and Therapeutic Targets. Corfu, Greece.
- 2013 Cancer Retreat, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2014 2nd Karolinska Institutet – Weizmann Institute Joint Conference. Frontiers in Cancer Research incl Developmental and Molecular Cell Biology. Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2014 Cancer Retreat, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2015 Metabolism in Cancer and Stromal Cells, Leuven, Belgium.
- 2015 Future Perspectives in Tumor Biology, honor of Eva and George Klein, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2015 Resolving single cell heterogeneity - Systems microscopy meets single cell omics. Symposium at Karolinska institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2015 Cancer Retreat, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2016 1st Biomedicum Young Researchers Symposium, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2016 Cancer Retreat, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2017 International VACTRAIN/ 3rd Swedish-Ukrainian conference on cancer diseases, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2017 Cancer Retreat, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

### References

Excellent references can be provided upon request