

# Sundus Shalabi, M.D., Ph.D.

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## Leader and Educator

As Dean Assistant, I co-lead the branch of Faculty of Medicine at Ramallah campus. With a unique hybrid of training in both clinical medicine and basic science, I am a passionate medical educator who teaches courses of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Medical Genetics in clinical contexts for medical students. I am also a Physician Scientist who thinks that basic scientific research should feed clinical medicine.

## Education

### Graduate Education:

2016- Dec 2021 PhD degree, Irell and Manella Graduate School of biological sciences at City of Hope, Duarte, California in the laboratory of Mark LaBarge, PhD, with focus on Cell and Molecular Biology, Mechanisms of Cancer Susceptibility, and Breast Cancer Genetics.

Dissertation title: Accelerated Aging in Human Mammary Epithelia of Women who Carry Predisposing Germline Mutations to Breast Cancer.

Most of my PhD dissertation research was published in September 2021 in the journal of *Nature Aging*; ([link](#)), and our story made it to the cover of the journal ([link](#)). The manuscript was also accompanied by a news and views article that discussed the significance of our work ([link](#))

### University Education:

2008-2014 Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree, Faculty of Medicine, Al-Quds University/Abu Dis, Jerusalem, Palestine. **(Among top five of class)**.

### Pre-university Education:

2001, 2002 Spent a year in Dutch schools during my stay in the Netherlands; IOK De Globe and Het Stroinks.

2008 General Secondary Education Certificate Examination, Scored: 98.2% **(Among top 10 on Ramallah District)**

### Courses Abroad:

- **Clinical Genetics Clerkship: 4 weeks, Dr. Joan Stoler, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA, July 2013.**
- **Clinical Cardiology Clerkship: 4 weeks, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA, August 2013 (Honors evaluation).**

### Positions and Employment:

Nov 2023- Present Assistant to the Dean for Ramallah Campus Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, Arab American University-Palestine.

Oct 2024- Present	Head of Biology and Biochemistry Department, Faculty of Medicine, Arab American University-Palestine.
Oct 2022- Present	Assistant Professor at the Department of Biology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Arab American University, Palestine (AAUP).
Oct 2024- Present	Genetic counseling services for high-risk individuals susceptible to hereditary cancers at Dunya Women's Cancer Center, Ramallah, Palestine.
July -Sep 2022	Physician in the Breast Cancer Screening Division at Dunya Women's Cancer Center, Ramallah, Palestine.
Oct 2015- Aug, 2016	Post-MD Researcher with Dr. Victoria Seewaldt in affiliation with City of Hope, Duarte, California.
Jan 2016- July, 2016	Service Resident Physician at Istishari Arab Hospital, Ramallah, Palestine.
July, 2014- July, 2015	Intern doctor at Maqassed Hospital/Jerusalem and Palestinian Medical Complex/ Ramallah
2014-July 2015	Co-founder of "Kown" Book club in association with Al-Bireh public library.
2011-June 2014	Research Assistant, Al-Quds Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, Faculty Of Medicine, Al-Quds University/Abu Dis, Jerusalem.
June- Dec 2014	Post graduate Research Assistant, Al-Quds Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, Palestinian Neuroscience Initiative, Faculty of Medicine, Al-Quds University/Abu Dis, Jerusalem. I mainly worked on the genetics of mental disorders and the genetic variation in neurotransmitter transporters' effect on human learning and behavior.

### Formal Teaching:

Oct 2022- Present	As an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, I have taught the following courses to medical students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medical Terminology</li> <li>- Histology</li> <li>- General Biochemistry</li> <li>- Molecular Biology</li> <li>- Medical Genetics</li> <li>- Evidence Based Medicine</li> <li>- Clinical Biochemistry lectures for the integrated systems</li> <li>- Pathology for the Genitourinary System</li> <li>- Physiology for the Digestive System</li> </ul>
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### Management and Coordination:

March 2023- Present	As the coordinator for the Program of Medicine at Arab American University, Ramallah campus, I have coordinated with the Department Heads at Jenin Campus the following departments and the courses assigned to these
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departments. In addition, I helped recruit some of the faculty members who worked and taught courses in these departments:

- The Physiology and Pharmacology Department
- The Microbiology Department
- The Histology and Pathology Department
- The Biochemistry Department
- The Anatomy Department
- The Medicine Department for the integrated systems
- The Biomedical Department that feeds courses for other faculties such as Dentistry, Nursing, and Medical Laboratory Sciences.

### Curriculum Building

- Oct 2022- Present
- Since I was hired as a Faculty Member at Faculty of Medicine, I have built the curriculum for the following courses and presented their topics in clinical context and in a simplified manner:
- General Biochemistry
  - Molecular Biology
  - Medical Genetics
  - Research Methods for Medical Students
  - Biostatistics for Medical students
  - Public Health and Epidemiology for Medical Students

### WFME Accreditation for the Medical Program

- Oct 2023- Present
- I am an active member of the committees who prepared the file for the International Accreditation for the program of Medicine by the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutions-Jordan which is recognized by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).
  - I served on the committees covering the following domains for the accreditation: the scientific domain, the quality assurance domain, and the scientific research domain.

### Selected Honors and Presentations:

- August 2020      **Best oral presentation award**; City of Hope 4<sup>th</sup> annual graduate student symposium (virtual); “Accelerated aging underlies the biology of high-risk germline breast cancers”, City of Hope, Duarte, CA
- October 2019      Recipient of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)/ Science program for Excellence in Science Award.
- August 2019      **Best Poster award** *Emergence of a putative Wnt/FZD-based epithelial-stromal communication circuit in high-risk breast tissue*; City of Hope 3rd Annual Graduate Research Symposium. Duarte, CA.
- June 2019      **Travel award** from City of Hope Graduate school to attend the ASMB-Fibroblast workshop, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Poster Presentation: “a putative Wnt/FZD-based epithelial-stromal communication circuit in high-risk breast tissue”. ASMB-Fibroblast workshop, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

- April 2019 **Best oral presentation award**; City of Hope Research Staff Organization Advanced Annual meeting; *Emergence of a putative Wnt/FZD-based epithelial-stromal communication circuit in high-risk breast tissue*. UCLA conference center at Lake Arrowhead, CA.
- October 2018 **Best poster award**; *BRCA1 mutation and related microenvironments drive acceleration of aging phenotypes in mammary epithelia*. Cedars Sinai’s graduate student symposium, Los Angeles, CA.
- December 2017 **Best poster award**; *The high-risk breast tissue cell resource*; City of Hope Annual poster session, City of Hope, Duarte, CA
- October 2016 Oral Presentation: " Breast cancer in Palestine: Some Facts and Future Prospects" at the Sixth International Breast Cancer Prevention Symposium: Environmental impact, Nutrition and Cell Fate
- 2008-2010 **Dean’s Honors list**, Faculty of Medicine, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem.

### Selected Publications:

I have published 9 manuscripts in peer reviewed journals and four abstracts in international conferences. [Google Scholar Link](#): <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=hJ1wfelAAAAJ&hl=en> , Orcid link: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8440-2474>.

**(Citations 176, h-index=7)**

1. Ahmad Shalabi, Ahmed Ehab, **Sundus F Shalabi**, Gudrun Kugler; H.-J. Schäfers; Thomas Graeter, Laser assisted pulmonary metastasectomy promises a low local recurrence rate. Scientific Reports. 2024 March 12; **14**, 5988. doi: [10.1038/s41598-024-56566-5](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-56566-5).
2. Tiina Jokela; Dane MA; Smith RL; Devlin KL; **Shalabi S**; Lopez JC; Miyano M; Stampfer MR; Korkola JE; Functional delineation of the luminal epithelial microenvironment in breast using cell-based screening in combinatorial microenvironments. Cellular signalling, Volume 113,2024,110958, ISSN 0898-6568, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cellsig.2023.110958>.
3. **Sundus F Shalabi** and Mark A LaBarge, Cellular and Molecular mechanisms of breast cancer susceptibility. Clinical Science. 2022 July 15; 136(13):1025-1043. doi:10.1042/CS20211158. PMID: 35786748
4. **Sundus F Shalabi**, Masaru Miyano, Rosalyn W Sayaman, Jennifer C Lopez, Tiina A Jokela, Michael E Todhunter, Stefan Hinz, James C Garbe, Martha R Stampfer, Kai Kessenbrock, Victoria E Seewaldt, and Mark A LaBarge, Evidence for accelerated aging in mammary epithelia of women carrying germline BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations. **Nature Aging**, Sep 2021, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43587-021-00104-9>).

5. Kevin Nee, Dennis Ma, Quy H Nguyen, Maren Pein, Nicholas Pervolarakis, Jacob Insua-Rodríguez, Yanwen Gong, Grace Hernandez, Hamad Alshetaiwi, Justice Williams, Maha Rauf, Kushal Rajiv Dave, Keerti Boyapati, Aliza Hasnain, Christian Calderon, Anush Markaryan, Robert Edwards, Erin Lin, Ritesh Parajuli, Peijie Zhou, Qing Nie, **Sundus Shalabi**, Mark A LaBarge, Kai Kessenbrock, *Preneoplastic stromal cells promote BRCA1-mediated breast tumorigenesis*, **Nature Genetics**, **55**, 595–606 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-023-01298-x>.
6. Masaru Miyano, Rosalyn W. Sayaman, **Sundus Shalabi**, Parijat Senapati, Jennifer C. Lopez, Stefan Hinz, Arrianna Zirbes, Lisa Yee, Mina Sedrak, Martha R. Stampfer, Victoria E Seewaldt, and Mark A LaBarge. “Breast specific molecular clocks comprised of ELF5 expression and promoter methylation identify individuals highly susceptible to cancer initiation.” **Cancer Prevention Research**, Aug 2021.
7. Fresques T, Zirbes A, **Shalabi S**, Samson S, Preto S, Stampfer MR and LaBarge MA “*Breast Tissue Biology Expands the Possibilities for Prevention of Age-Related Breast Cancers*”, **Front. Cell Dev. Biol.**, 7:174, 28 August 2019.

### Trainings:

11 April to 27 June 2025	Health Professions – Key Ideas for Teachers and Trainers (HP-KITT) Course, hosted by Prof. Ronald Harden and Prof. Jeni Harden from Dundee University via zoom, Arab American University, Palestine (AAUP).
Feb 2024	IMET2000 <b>Research Training/ Education Program</b> , IMET-2000 at Faculty of Medicine at Arab American University, Palestine (AAUP).
Dec, 2023	IMET2000 Teaching the Teachers for Health Sciences Educators, at Faculty of Medicine at Arab American University, Palestine (AAUP).
Oct 2022-Feb 2023	Intensive Course in Genetic Cancer Risk Assessment 2023, City of Hope, Duarte, California
July & Aug 2019	R programming certificate course, City of Hope, Duarte, CA.
Aug and Sep 2016	Grant writing course, City of Hope, Duarte, CA.
Sep 10th-31st 2014	Training in Hematological Cancer Diagnostics, including Bone Marrow Morphology, Flowcytometry, Cytogenetics/FISH and Molecular Genetics. Also, Stem Cell And Bone Marrow Transplantation Services For Treatment, And Some Training Time At The Pediatric And Adult Hematology Wards at Sahlgrenska Academy Hospital, Gothenburg university, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Jan,2014	Basic Life Support provided by the Palestinian ministry of health.
Jan,2014	Advanced Cardiac Life Support provided by the Palestinian ministry of health.
May, 2013	Intensive Behavioral Genetics course, Al-Quds Cognitive neuroscience lab in collaboration with Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.
Jan 2013	Basics of Cognitive Neuroscience
Jan, 2013	Basics of MATLAB
Oct, 2012	The IOF young Investigator Mentoring program, Dead Sea, Jordan.
July, 2012	Statistics and research design course
July, 2011	Statistics and research design course

### Informal Teaching and Mentoring:

- Jennifer Lopez, High school student, City of Hope summer internship program, June and July 2019.
- Elina Truong, High school student, City of Hope internship program, Feb-May, 2019.
- Al-Quds University Medical School mentoring program where mentored medical students during their clinical rotations, 2013-2015.

### Organizing Medical Activities:

April 2019	8 <sup>th</sup> Biomedical Research Symposium of Palestinian Forum for Medical Research. Birzeit University, Ramallah, Palestine.
Spring 2010	2nd Medical Ethics conference, member of organizing committee, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem.
Winter 2011	Medical Day at Bierzet University, Ramallah.

### Voluntary Work:

Oct, 2015	Dunya Breast Cancer Center, Ramallah, Palestine.
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### General Activities:

2001-2013	Participation in many activities held by El-Bireh Public Library, Ramallah.
Mar 2008	Osteoporosis Day, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem.
April 2009	Blood Donation Day Activity, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem.
Nov 2009	Diabetes Day, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem.
May2010	Thalassemia Day, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem.

## Society and Committee Memberships:

Aug 2024- Present	the International Association for Health Professions Education (AMEE).
Sep 2018-Sep 2020	Graduate Student Organization-International Students Affairs Officer, City of Hope
Dec 2018- present	American Society of Cell Biology
April 2019- present	American Society of Matrix Biology
2014- Present	The Palestinian Medical Association.
2014- Present	The Jordanian Medical Association/ Jerusalem Center.
2014- July,2015	“Kown” Book club in association with Al-Bireh public library.
2011- 2014	The Palestinian Neuroscience Initiative, Al-Quds university, Jerusalem.
2008-2014	Palestinian Medical Students’ Society (PMSS).
2009-2014	International Federation for Medical Students’ Association-Palestine (IFMSA-PS).

## Languages:

- Arabic (Native)
- English (Excellent)
- Dutch (Beginner)
- Hebrew (Beginner)

## Websites & Relevant Links:

- [https://oncologytube.com/mark-labarge-md-and-sundus-shalabi-md-mlabarge\\_uno-shalabisundus-cityofhope-breastcancer-cancer-research-evidence-for-accelerated-aging-in-mammary-epithelia-of-women-carrying-ger/](https://oncologytube.com/mark-labarge-md-and-sundus-shalabi-md-mlabarge_uno-shalabisundus-cityofhope-breastcancer-cancer-research-evidence-for-accelerated-aging-in-mammary-epithelia-of-women-carrying-ger/)
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43587-021-00104-9>
- <https://www.nature.com/nataging/volumes/1/issues/9>
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43587-021-00113-8>
- <http://www.theverge.com/2013/8/20/4603084/the-war-inside-fighting-depression-in-palestine>