

Gretta Abou-Sleymane, Ph.D.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. Gretta Abou-Sleymane received her B.S. degree in Biology from St. Joseph University (USJ), Beirut, in 2001, and was awarded a scholarship from the USJ to pursue her graduate studies in the field of Genetics. She then completed a Specialty Diploma in Molecular and Cellular Genetics from Institut Pasteur, Paris, in 2002, followed by an M.S. degree in Human Genetics from Paris7 University. Dr. Abou-Sleymane later obtained her Ph.D. degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology with emphasis in Genetics from the University Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, in 2006. She was appointed as a Research Assistant in the human genetics team supervised by Prof. Jean-Louis Mandel at the Institute of Genetics and Molecular and Cellular Biology (IGBMC). Her research focused on pathogenic mechanisms of polyglutamine expansion diseases and mainly on transcriptional deregulations associated with Huntington's disease and Spinocerebellar Ataxia type 7. During her Ph.D. training, she obtained a University Diploma in Statistics from the University Louis Pasteur in 2005.



Dr. Abou Sleymane joined the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUST in 2008 and was appointed as the Chairperson of the Department of Laboratory Science and Technology in 2013. Dr. Abou-Sleymane teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Genetics and Cell & Molecular Biology and conducts research in the field of Genetics. In addition to her research interests in human genetics, Dr. Abou-Sleymane established the laboratory of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) at AUST. The GMOs laboratory received the ISO 17025 Accreditation and became the reference laboratory in Lebanon and the MENA region. The GMOs team is actively engaged in a series of research projects that have already resulted in the publication of scientific articles in prestigious peer-reviewed journals. This research group has developed a novel cost-effective testing strategy to face the global challenges of GMOs diversity. The group has also conducted comprehensive GMOs analyses on a broad range of samples from the Lebanese market in order to support the policy makers in the development of appropriate GMOs regulations in the country. Moreover, Dr. Abou-Sleymane had an instrumental role in establishing the network of GMOs laboratories (MENANGL) in the MENA region. The network is officially recognized by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. In collaboration with the JRC, she has conducted a capacity building training and proficiency assessment for the GMOs laboratories in the MENA region. Upon the successful results, she has been re-nominated, in 2017, as regional coordinator. At a global standing, she has participated in the BiodiverSEEDy project conducted by the Norwegian Centre for Biosafety, GenOk, and she has been appointed to the UN Roster of Biosafety Experts.

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LIST OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. Nair P., Lama M., El-Hayek S., **Abou Sleymane G.**, Stora S., Obeid M., Al-Ali M.T., Delague V., Mégarbané A. COQ8A and MED25 Mutations in a Child with Intellectual Disability, Microcephaly, Seizures, and Spastic Ataxia: Synergistic Effect of Digenic Variants. *Mol Syndromol*. 2018; 9:319-323.
2. De Gabory CL., **Abou-Sleymane G.**, Stora S., Obeid M., Mikael D., Megarbane A. Cornelia de Lange syndrome type 5: report of two new cases. *Middle East J Med Genet*. 2018;7:46-9.
3. Agapito-Tenfen, S.Z., Lopez, F.R., Mallah, N., **Abou-Sleymane, G.**, Trtikova, M., Nodari, R.O. and Wickson, F. Transgene flow in Mexican maize revisited: Socio-biological analysis across two contrasting farmer communities and seed management systems". *Ecology and Evolution*. 2017; 7(22):9461-9472.
4. Mallah, N., Obeid, M., **Abou-Sleymane, G.** Comprehensive matrices for regulatory approvals and genetic characterization of genetically modified organisms. *Food Control*. 2017; 80:52-58.
5. Bazakos, C., Khanfir, E., Aoun, M., Spano, T., Zein, Z.E., Chalak, L., Riachy, M.E., **Abou-Sleymane, G.**, Ali, S.B., Kammoun, N., Kalaitzis, P. The potential of SNP-based PCR-RFLP capillary electrophoresis analysis to authenticate and detect admixtures of Mediterranean olive oils. *Electrophoresis*. 2016; 37(13):1881-90.
6. Sakr, J., Mallah, N., Chalak, L., **Abou-Sleymane, G.** First comprehensive GMOs testing in Lebanon: screening, identification and quantification of GM soybean imports. *Food Control*. 2014; 36:146-152.