

Dr. Muayad Aghali Merza from Iraq guest fellow in infectious diseases

The aim of the study is to attain the core competencies of patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice.

Although patients with infections are seen by all physicians, infectious disease specialists are needed for optimal handling of many of these conditions, especially when dealing with complex infectious diseases. Several studies have shown the impact of infectious diseases specialist care in improving patient outcomes, optimizing antibiotic treatment, reduction in incidence of antimicrobial resistance and the risk of nosocomial infections caused by resistant bacteria.

The overall goal of the study is to train a specialist and future faculty in academic Infectious Diseases. The training programme will ensure that one should acquire and demonstrate the necessary factual knowledge, skills (clinical and procedural) and attitudes that characterize the practice of infectious disease. It will provide rigorous training and supervised experience with faculty of broad clinical expertise at a sufficient level to acquire outstanding skills as a **specialist in infectious diseases**. This experiential learning will provide opportunities to manage patients with a wide variety of infectious diseases in both the ambulatory and in-patient setting.

Curriculum vitae

MUAYAD AGHALI MERZA

Name : Muayad Aghali Merza
Date & Place of Birth : 1st July 1974, Baghdad-Iraq
Address : House: Shakhke - Duhok, Kurdistan-Iraq
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Nationality : Iraqi-Kurd
Gender : Male
Marital Status : Married



Educational background:

Primary Education	1980-1986	Qonatare primary school – Baghdad -Iraq
Secondary Education	1987-1992	Shahid Sader secondary school – Tehran - Iran
University degree	1993-1998	MBChB,. University of Duhok /College of medicine, Duhok
Higher education	2004-2005	MSc, University of Nottingham /Faculty of medicine and health Sciences – Nottingham – UK
	2007- 2011	PhD, University of Duhok in collaboration with Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (NRITLD)-Tehran-Iran

MSc Thesis : **Management of Postpneumonic Empyema in Children: a 10 Year Experience**
The thesis is submitted to Nottingham Academic Staff Committee in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MSc in Clinical Microbiology / July-2004

PhD Thesis : **Clinical and Molecular characterization of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains isolated from patients in Duhok province, Iraqi Kurdistan.**

Areas of Expertise:

Clinical Microbiology and clinical Tuberculosis
General Surgery
General Medication
Medical administration
Emergency Health programs
Public health and staff support

**Professional
General Practitioner
General Practitioner
Practitioner
Practitioner
Practitioner**

Qualifications : **M.B.Ch.B** / College of Medicine / Duhok University (1998 – 1999)
MSc Clinical Microbiology / Faculty of Medicine / Nottingham University (2004-2005)
PhD in Infectious Diseases / College of medicine - Duhok in collaboration with Masih Daneshvery Hospital / Mycobacteriology Research Center (MRC) -Tehran (2007 - 2011)

Languages spoken : Kurdish (Mother tongue)
Arabic
English
Persian

National and International participation's, workshops and training's:

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| 10-12th Dec 2001 | Duhok-Kurdistan-IRAQ, A workshop on Health Management. Organized by Dr. Enayatulla Aman, UNWHO officer in charge – Duhok sub-office. |
| 28-31st Dec 2002 | Duhok-Kurdistan-IRAQ, First workshop on communicable Diseases control in Complex Emergency Situation. Organized by Dr. Chehrezad Ghazi, UNWHO acting coordinator of Northern Iraq. |
| 3-4th April 2002 | Duhok-Kurdistan-IRAQ, First Medical conference of the college of medicines. Organized by University of Duhok. |
| 5-6th Sep 2003 | Baghdad-IRAQ, A workshop on child protection. Organized by ministry of health/Baghdad. |
| 5-7th May 2004 | Hawler-Kurdistan-IRAQ, Second Medical conference conducted at Ministry of health conference hall. |
| 16-20th Sep 2006 | Duhok-Kurdistan-IRAQ, International Classification of Diseases 10 th revision workshop. |
| 20-24th Aug 2006 | Erbid-Jordan, Overview on provision of health services in Jordanian hospitals and getting information on the learning aspects in University of Science and Technology at Erbid |
| 11-14th Dec 2006 | Cairo-Egypt, Inter-country workshop on rapid response for avian and pandemic influenza: training of trainers. Organized by WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. |
| 2-17th Sep 2007 | Seoul-Korea, Training course on Health Policy and Program Management. Organized by planned population federation of Korea and the Korea international cooperation agency of the Republic of Korea. |
| 9-14th Jun 2008 | Tehran-Iran, Training course on Hospital Infection Control. Organized by Masih Danshveri Hospital in collaboration with WHO. |
| 28th Jun – 2nd Jul 2009 | Gothenburg-Sweden, 3 rd Congress of European Microbiologists -Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS). |
| 5-8th Jul 2009 | Porto-Portugal, 30 th Annual Congress - European Society of Mycobacteriology |
| 11-15th Nov 2010 | Berlin-Germany, 41 st Union world conference on lung health – International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease |
| 19-20th Sep 2012 | Duhok-Kurdistan, the Second Scientific Conference of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Duhok. |

Computer literacy : Windows, Words, Excel, Access, Powerpoint and Internet.

Public societies/ Membership : ***Member of Iraqi Kurdistan Medical Association (Syndicate)**
Registration # 1090 dated 13th February 2000.

Previous Positions and experience:-

- 2011 – until now: Infectious Diseases Lecturer, Internal Medicine Department, Medical School, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Duhok, Iraqi Kurdistan. Furthermore, Infectious Diseases doctor in Azadi Teaching Hospital, Infectious Diseases Unit with especial interest in viral hepatitis clinic and antibiotic prescription policy.

-2011- until now: Editorial board in International Journal of Mycobacteriology

- 2008-2011 clinical and research activities of PhD in NRITLD, Tehran, Iran. Contract of work with MRC, NRITLD for 1.5 year.

- **Deputy Director of Azadi General Teaching Hospital**, Duhok City, Kurdistan region-Iraq since April 2007 in addition to the original work (Clinical Microbiology).

- **Clinical Microbiologist**/Azadi hospital, Duhok City, Kurdistan region-Iraq since December 2005 – March 2007 (3 days per week)

- **Medical Officer**/ DGOH, Duhok City, Kurdistan region-Iraq from November 2005 - March 2007 (3 days per week)

- **Postgraduated (Full time) student** in Nottingham University/UK Clinical Microbiology September 2004 – September 2005

A full time one year MSc study in Nottingham University

Two days per week (9:00 am – 5:00 pm); theory lectures

Three working days in PICU (Paediatrics intensive care unit)/QMC (Queen Medical Centre), Nottingham, UK

- **Medical doctor (GP) and officer** (DGOH), Duhok City, Kurdistan region-Iraq from January 2002 – August 2004

- **Director (GP) of Malta public clinic**, Duhok City, Kurdistan region-Iraq from January 2002 – August 2004.

- **Medical doctor and health & nutrition inspector** in ELS (S3) organization (NGO) for a 20 months period (2 days work per week), since 03/02/02.

- **Medical doctor (GP)** in rural areas from October 2001 – December 2001.

- **Resident House Officer**, Azadi and Emergency hospitals- Duhok City, Kurdistan region from October 1999 – October 2001; two years rotational internship as a Resident House as follows:

General Surgery	4 months
Internal Medicine	4 months
Obstetrics & Gynecology	3 months
Pediatrics	3 months
General Casualty	4 months
ENT	1 months
Ophthalmology	1 months
Orthopedics	1 months
Renal Dialysis	1 months
CCU	2 months
Total	24 months - 2 Year

Publications

1. Rosales S, Jureen P, Zalutskayae A, Skrahina A, Xu B, Hu Y, Pineda-Garcia L, **Merza MA**, et al. Drug resistance-related mutations in multidrug-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates from diverse geographical regions. 2012;3:124-130.
2. **Merza MA**, Jabrial FK, Hussein NR. Intestinal obstruction secondary to primary ileocecal tuberculosis: A case report. *IJMyco*; 2012; 1(2): 96-98.
3. **Merza MA**, Salih AM. First insight into the genetic diversity of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains from patients in Duhok, Iraq. *IJMyco*; 2012 (1)1: 13-20.
4. Velayati AA, Farnia P, Masjedi MR, Zhavnerko GK, **Merza MA**, Ghanavi J, et al. Sequential adaptation in latent tuberculosis bacilli: observation by atomic force microscopy (AFM). *Int J Clin Exp Med*; 2011;4(3):193-189. Epub 2011 Sep 15.
5. Sheikholislami M, Farnia P, Tabarsi P, **Merza MA**, Pooramiri MV, Mohammadi F, et al. Comparison of polymerase chain reaction single-strand conformation polymorphism with DNA sequencing to detect drug resistance of mycobacterium tuberculosis isolates. *Iranian Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2011; 6(2): 66-70.
6. **Merza MA**, Farnia P, Tabarsi P, Kazampour M, Masjedi MR, Velayati AA. Anti-tuberculosis drug resistance and associated risk factors in a tertiary level TB center in Iran: a retrospective analysis. *J Infect Dev Ctries* 2011; 5(7):511-519.
7. **Merza MA**, Farnia P, Salih AM, Masjedi MR, Velayati AA. First insight into the drug resistance pattern of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Dohuk, Iraq: using spoligotyping and MIRU-VNTR to characterize multidrug resistant strains. *J Infect Public Health* 2011;4:41-47.
8. Velayati AA, Farnia P, **Merza MA**, Zhavnerko GK, Tabarsi P, Titov LP, et al. New insight into extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis: using atomic force microscopy. *Eur Respir J*; 2010;36(6):1490-1493.
9. Farnia P, Mohammad RM, **Merza MA**, Tabarsi P, Zhavnerko GK, Ibrahim TA, et al. Growth and cell-division in extensive (XDR) and extremely drug resistant (XXDR) tuberculosis strains: transmission and atomic force observation. *Int J Clin Exp Med* 2010;3:308-314.
10. **Merza MA**, Farnia P, Salih AM, Masjedi MR, Velayati AA. The most predominant Spoligopatterns of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates among Iranian, Afghan-Immigrant, Pakistani and Turkish tuberculosis patients: a comparative analysis. *Chemotherapy* 2010;56:248-257.
11. **Merza MA**, Farnia P, Masjedi MR, Ridell M. Anti-tuberculosis drug resistance in Duhok, Iraq. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis* 2010;14:1213-1214.
12. Tabarsi P, **Merza MA**, Marjani M. Active pulmonary tuberculosis manifesting with idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura: a rare presentation. *Braz J Infect Dis* 2010;14:639-640.
13. **Merza M**, Masjedi MR. Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR) and extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis (XXDR): risk factors and molecular perspectives. *Iranian Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2010; 5(3):174-188.

14. Salih AM, **Merza MA**. Risk factors for multidrug resistant tuberculosis: a review. Duhok Med J 2010; 4(2):1-7.
15. Jafarian M, **Merza MA**, Farnia P, Ahmadi M, Masjedi MR, Velayati AA. Synchronous Comparison of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Epidemiology Strains by "MIRU-VNTR" and "MIRU-VNTR and Spoligotyping" Technique. Avicenna Journal of Medical Biotechnology 2010;2:145-152.
16. **Merza M**, Farnia P, Anoosheh S, Varahram M, Kazampour M, Pajand O et al. The NRAMPI, VDR and TNF-alpha gene polymorphisms in Iranian tuberculosis patients: the study on host susceptibility. Braz J Infect Dis 2009; 13:252-256.
17. Varahram M, Farnia P, Anoosheh S, Kazampour M, **Merza M**, Saeif S, et al. The VDR and TNF- α gene polymorphisms in Iranian tuberculosis patients: The study on host susceptibility. Iranian Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases 2009;4:207-213.

Poster presentations (Abstracts)

1. **Merza MA**. Genotyping of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates in the Dohuk city of Iraq using MIRU-VNTR. 2010. Presented at IUATLD, Berlin, Germany.
2. Sheikholislami M, Farnia P, Seif S, Bayat M, Anoshe S, **Mirza MA**, Masjedi MR, Velayati AA. The relationship between single nucleotide polymorphism of interferon gamma receptor 1 and susceptibility to tuberculosis. 2010. Presented at ERS, Barcelona, Spain.
3. **Merza MA**, Farnia P, Salih AM, Masjedi MR, Velayati AA. The predominant Spoligopatterns of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates from Iranian, Afghan patients and its comparison to Turkey and Pakistan. 2009. Presented at FEMS, Gothenburg, Sweden.

References:

Name	:	Dr. Parissa Farnia
Position	:	Head of MRC, NRITLD, Tehran, Iran
Agency	:	University of Shahid Beheshti Tehran, Iran
E-mail	:	pfarnia@hotmail.com
Name	:	Prof. Dlawer Ala'Aldeen
Position	:	Minister of Higher Education/Iraqi Kurdistan and MSc Clinical Microbiology Course Director
Agency	:	Iraqi Kurdistan government and Nottingham University / Nottingham-UK
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