



# AREF KYYALY



**RESEARCH FELLOW**  
GENETICS, miRNAs

"I love research and finding solutions for problems"

## Academic profile

### Degree

BSc, Applied Chemistry

### Post grad

PhD, Biochemistry

### Qualification/achievement you are most proud of

Asthma UK research grant 2019

### Subjects you enjoyed at school

Chemistry, Biology

## Career Summary

After 5 years experience as a lecturer at Aleppo University, I had to fled from Syria because of the war in 2014. I started my new career in the UK from the University of Nottingham as a research associate for one year then moved to Southampton as a research fellow in 2015. During my journey in the UK I had to change my field of research more than once; I worked in the field of nutrition in Nottingham then gene cloning and protein expression in Southampton and finally, also in Southampton, asthma (epi)genetics and miRNAs. Recently, I achieved a very important step in my career as my idea of research was able to win a £245,000 grant from Asthma UK/Innovate UK to develop a new diagnostic test for asthma diagnosis and severity. This test will be based on specific miRNAs related to asthma and I will be working on this project for the coming three years.

## Describe your job



## What inspired you?

I love helping others to change the world to a better place. The shining eyes of my students and young people when they learn new things always inspired me. I always wanted to work in science but sometimes I thought I will never be able to do especially during the war in my home country.

## Did you know .....

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small RNAs (Ribonucleic acids) that regulate gene functions.

## Top tip

Love, Believe, Achieve... Love what you do, believe in yourself, and you will achieve your aims

## Best thing about my job

Beside teaching and conveying knowledge to the new generations, I love the new challenges in science

## Find out more

- [@arefkyyaly](#)
- [@asthmauk](#)

## Watch the video:

