Curriculum Vitae

Elie El Agha Professor, Ph.D.
d.o.b. March 21st, 1984, in Saida, Lebanon

University Education

2009-2014	Doctor of Philosophy, Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU)
2008-2009	Master of Science in Molecular Biology, University of Skövde, Skövde, Sweden
2002–2006	Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon

Scientific Career

Since 2024	Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine, Tulan University, New Orleans, LA, USA
Since 2023	Associate Editor at the *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology*
Since 2023	Associate Editor at the *Journal of Respiratory Biology and Translational Medicine*
Since 2022	Principal Investigator at the Regeneration and Organ Replacement (ROR) Disease Area of the DZL
Since 2022	Member of the Institute for Lung Health (ILH) Academy Board
Since 2022	Member of the Cardio-Pulmonary Institute (CPI) Ph.D. committee
Since 2021	Professor for Pathogen-Induced Lung Injury and Repair at the ILH, JLU
Since 2021	Director of the international graduate program Molecular Biology and Medicine of the Lung (MBML), JLU
Since 2021	Member of the German Center for Lung Research (DZL) Academy Board
Since 2021	Supervisor at the International Giessen Graduate Centre for the Life Sciences (GGL), Section 3: Heart, Lung and Blood Vessels
Since 2021	Principal Investigator at the Pneumonia and Acute Lung Injury (PALI) Disease Area of the DZL
Since 2020	Co-coordinator of Area C: "The Mesenchymal Cell" of the Diffuse Parenchymal Lung Disease (DPLD) Disease Area of the DZL
2020-2023	Member of the Board of Directors for the Collaborative Research Center 1213 (CRC1213) on Pulmonary Hypertension and Cor Pulmonale
2020–2021	Independent Junior Research Group Leader at the ILH
Since 2018	Co-leader of Area 3 of the CPI on “Morphogenesis, Remodeling and Regeneration”
Since 2018	Member of the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Physiology-Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology
Since 2016	Principal Investigator at the DPLD Disease Area of the DZL
Since 2014	Tutor at the international graduate program MBML, JLU
2015-2021	Deputy director of the international graduate program MBML, JLU
2014-2020	Postdoctoral Researcher at JLU

Awards and Honors

2022	Preis der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, section: Natural sciences and medicine, Giessen, Germany
2020	Dr.-Herbert-Stolzenberg prize, section: Human medicine, Giessen, Germany
2018	Young investigator award of the von Behring-Röntgen foundation, section: Medical research, Giessen, Germany
2017	Basic science prize of the German Society for Pneumology and Respiratory Medicine (DGP), Stuttgart, Germany
2015	Poster prize at “Advancing in IPF Research” (AIR) symposium, Potsdam, Germany
2013	Poster prize at the DZL annual meeting, Bad Nauheim, Germany
2012	Poster prize at the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on "Fibroblast Growth Factors in Development and Disease", Les Diablerets, Switzerland
2012	MBML Travel award for the successful completion of the program

2009 Fellowship for the master's thesis work, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Citation Record
Total citations: 3,782; *h-index: 29; h-index since 2021: 25* (Google Scholar March 2nd, 2026)

Top-10 selected Publications

Khadim A, Kiliaris G, Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Procida T, Glaser D, Bartkuhn M, Malik T, Chu X, Kuznetsova I, Ahmadvand N, Lingampally A, Alexopoulos I, Chen Y, Günther A, Behr J, Schiller HB, Li X, Weissmann N, Braun T, Seeger W, Wygrecka M, Morty RE, Herold S, ***El Agha E.*** Myofibroblasts emerge during alveolar regeneration following influenza virus-induced lung injury. **Cell Rep.** 2025 Feb 25;44(2):115248. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2025.115248. Epub 2025 Feb 3.

Lingampally A, Truchi M, Mauduit O, Delcroix V, Vasquez-Pacheco E, Chu X, Khadim A, Chao C-M, Zabihi M, Taghizadeh S, Rivetti S, Marega M, Moiseenko A, Hadzic S, Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Herold S, Günther S, Millar-Büchner P, Koepke J, Samakovlis C, Wilhelm J, Bartkuhn M, Braun T, Weissmann N, Zhang JS, Wygrecka M, Makarenkova HP, Günther A, Seeger W, Chen C#, ***El Agha E#,*** Mari B#, Bellusci S#. Evidence for a lipofibroblast-to-Cthrc1+ myofibroblast reversible switch during the development and resolution of lung fibrosis in young mice. **Eur Respir J.** 2025 Feb 6;65(2):2300482. doi: 10.1183/13993003.00482-2023. Print 2025 Feb.

Chu X, Kheirollahi V, Lingampally A, Chelladurai P, Valasarajan C, Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Hadzic S, Khadim A, Pak O, Rivetti S, Wilhelm J, Bartkuhn M, Crnkovic S, Moiseenko A, Heiner M, Kraut S, Sotoodeh L, Koepke J, Valente G, Ruppert C, Braun T, Samakovlis C, Alexopoulos I, Looso M, Chao C-M, Herold S, Seeger W, Kwapiszewska G, Huang X, Zhang J-S, Pullamsetti SS, Weissmann N, Li X#, ***El Agha E#,*** Bellusci S#. GLI1+ cells contribute to vascular remodeling in pulmonary hypertension. **Circ Res.** 2024 May 24;134(11):e133-e149. doi: 10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.123.323736. Epub 2024 Apr 19.

El Agha E#, Thannickal VJ#. The lung mesenchyme in development, regeneration, and fibrosis. **J Clin Invest.** 2023 Jul 17;133(14):e170498. doi: 10.1172/JCI170498.

Moiseenko A, Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Kheirollahi V, Chu X, Tata A, Rivetti S, Günther S, Lebrigand K, Herold S, Braun T, Mari B, De Langhe S, Kwapiszewska G, Günther A, Chen C, Seeger W, Tata PR, Zhang JS, Bellusci S#, ***El Agha E#.*** Identification of a Repair-Supportive Mesenchymal Cell Population During Airway Epithelial Regeneration. **Cell Rep.** 2020 Dec 22;33(12):108549. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2020.108549.

Kheirollahi V, Wasnick RM, Biasin V, Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Chu X, Moiseenko A, Weiss A, Wilhelm J, Zhang JS, Kwapiszewska G, Herold S, Schermuly RT, Mari B, Li X, Seeger W, Günther A, Bellusci S#, ***El Agha E#.*** Metformin induces lipogenic differentiation in myofibroblasts to reverse lung fibrosis. **Nat Commun.** 2019 Jul 5;10(1):2987. doi: 10.1038/s41467-019-10839-0.

El Agha E, Moiseenko A, Kheirollahi V, De Langhe S, Crnkovic S, Kwapiszewska G, Szibor M, Kosanovic D, Schwind F, Schermuly RT, Henneke I, MacKenzie B, Quantius J, Herold S, Ntokou A, Ahlbrecht K, Braun T, Morty RE, Günther A, Seeger W, Bellusci S. Two-Way Conversion between Lipogenic and Myogenic Fibroblastic Phenotypes Marks the Progression and Resolution of Lung Fibrosis. **Cell Stem Cell.** 2017 Feb 2;20(2):261-273.e3. doi: 10.1016/j.stem.2016.10.004.

El Agha E#, Kramann R, Schneider RK, Li X, Seeger W, Humphreys BD, Bellusci S#. Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Fibrotic Disease. **Cell Stem Cell.** 2017 Aug 3;21(2):166-177. doi: 10.1016/j.stem.2017.07.011.

Al Alam D*, ***El Agha E*,*** Sakurai R, Kheirollahi V, Moiseenko A, Danopoulos S, Shrestha A, Schmoldt C, Quantius J, Herold S, Chao CM, Tiozzo C, De Langhe S, Plikus MV, Thornton M, Grubbs B, Minoo P, Rehan VK, Bellusci S. Evidence for the involvement of fibroblast growth factor 10 in lipofibroblast formation during embryonic lung development. **Development.** 2015 Dec 1;142(23):4139-50. doi: 10.1242/dev.109173.

El Agha E, Herold S, Al Alam D, Quantius J, MacKenzie B, Carraro G, Moiseenko A, Chao CM, Minoo P, Seeger W, Bellusci S. Fgf10-positive cells represent a progenitor cell population during lung development and postnatally. **Development.** 2014 Jan;141(2):296-306. doi: 10.1242/dev.099747. Epub 2013 Dec 18.