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 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 (ALI) Disease Area of the DZL
Since 2020	Member of the Board of Directors for the Collaborative Research Center 1213 (CRC1213) on Pulmonary Hypertension and Cor Pulmonale
Since 2020	Coordinator of Area C: "The Mesenchymal Cell" of the Diffuse Parenchymal Lung Disease (DPLD) Disease Area of the DZL
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

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: 2,032; *h-index: 21; h-index since 2017: 21* (Google Scholar July 24th, 2022)

Top-10 selected Publications

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.

Vazquez-Armendariz AI, Heiner M, El Agha E, Salwig I, Hoek A, Hessler MC, Shalashova I, Shrestha A, Carraro G, Mengel JP, Günther A, Morty RE, Vadász I, Schwemmle M, Kummer W, Hain T, Goesmann A, Bellusci S, Seeger W, Braun T, Herold S. Multilineage murine stem cells generate complex organoids to model distal lung development and disease. EMBO J. 2020 Nov 2;39(21):e103476. doi: 10.15252/embj.2019103476.

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, Schwind F, Ruppert C, Günther A, Bellusci S, Schermuly RT, Kosanovic D. Is the fibroblast growth factor signaling pathway a victim of receptor tyrosine kinase inhibition in pulmonary parenchymal and vascular remodeling? Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol. 2018 Aug 1;315(2):L248-L252. doi: 10.1152/ajplung.00140.2018.

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.

Volckaert T, Yuan T, Chao CM, Bell H, Sitaula A, Szimmtenings L, El Agha E, Chanda D, Majka S, Bellusci S, Thannickal VJ, Fässler R, De Langhe SP. Fgf10-Hippo Epithelial-Mesenchymal Crosstalk Maintains and Recruits Lung Basal Stem Cells. Dev Cell. 2017 Oct 9;43(1):48-59.e5. doi: 10.1016/j.devcel.2017.09.003.

Moiseenko A, Kheirollahi V, Chao CM, Ahmadvand N, Quantius J, Wilhelm J, Herold S, Ahlbrecht K, Morty RE, Rizvanov AA, Minoo P, El Agha E, Bellusci S. Origin and characterization of alpha smooth muscle actin-positive cells during murine lung development. Stem Cells. 2017 Jun;35(6):1566-1578. doi: 10.1002/stem.2615.

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.