



Mai ABDEL MOUTI

Home Country
Egypt

Degree
PhD in Molecular Cancer Studies

Expertise
Cancer Nanotechnology

Research Focus
Novel Therapies for Melanomas

Host University
University of Manchester,
United Kingdom

Fellowship Awarded
2012

Mai Abdel Mouti was born in Cairo, Egypt. Her father is a mechanical engineer and her mother a housewife. Mai's interest in educating dates back to early childhood days when her favorite game was to take the role of a teacher in a class.

Mai has a Bachelor's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Ain-Shams University, Egypt, and an MSc in Pharmacology from Cairo University. She implemented the practical section of her Master's project as a visiting research student at the National Research Center: the largest multidisciplinary R&D facility in Egypt. In 2010, she was awarded a scholarship that enabled her to attend the Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald, Germany, as a visiting scholar. In the same year she was a summer intern at University College London (UCL), United Kingdom. She is currently an assistant lecturer at the faculty of Pharmacy and Biotechnology of the German University in Cairo (GUC).

The PhD research is exploring novel strategies for combating melanoma, a form of skin cancer that accounts for at least 75% of all skin-cancer related deaths. The disease is resistant to radiation and chemotherapeutic drugs, so the project is focusing on nanotechnology-based approaches for diagnosis and treatment, taking advantage of recent innovations and progress in this field. To test the approach *in vivo*, it is proposed to use human melanoma xenografts in zebrafish, combining unique properties of optical transparency, real time imaging of tumor progression, and compatibility with gold nanoparticles, for assessment of selectivity and therapeutic efficacy.

Following completion of the four year PhD study program, Mai plan to return to teaching at GUC. She is also interested in pursuing post-doctoral studies at universities with a worldwide reputation.