

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Somaya A. M. Albhaisi

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor of Medicine

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Dubai Medical College for Girls, Dubai, U.A.E.	MBBCh	08/2014	Medicine/Surgery
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City-managed by Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E	Residency	05/2016	Internal Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, U.S.A	Residency	06/2019	Internal Medicine
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, U.S.A	MPH	12/2022	Public Health

A. Personal Statement

I am a clinician-investigator and an internist by training. I joined the VCU Department of Internal Medicine in 2019 as faculty and I am currently working as a Clinical Hospitalist at VCU at VCU where I have had the privilege of learning from mentors who are experts in the field of Hepatology. I received the Emerging Liver Scholar Award from the American Association for Study of Liver Diseases in 2019 and I'm currently the Chair of the Summer Scholars Program of the American College of Gastroenterology and its representative at the Intersociety Group on Diversity. I am an early career investigator who is seeking to pursue a career in academic Gastroenterology and Hepatology with a focus on social determinants of health (SDOH) in clinical liver disease to better understand the relevance of SDOH in the context of chronic liver diseases and translate these insights to improve care delivery both at an individual and at a health system level. My research has focused thus far on the epidemiology, prevention, and treatment of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) cirrhosis. When I was a resident, I led few studies under the mentorship of Dr. Arun Sanyal, including a study on the risk of extrahepatic malignancies in NAFLD. As an assistant professor and an early career investigator, I am continuing my research in liver disease with Dr. Sanyal and other experts in the field of Hepatology. I have been studying the association between NAFLD and extrahepatic malignancies, natural history and impact of NAFLD on pregnancy, metabolomic signatures of spontaneously resolved NAFLD to obtain insights on pathways most relevant for altering disease trajectory, and the role of obesity-associated hypogonadism in males and its role in NASH. Moreover, I am studying racial and ethnic disparities in NAFLD/NASH and outcomes of NASH cirrhosis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I became the founding director of VCU's COVID-19 registry and biorepository, and I have received internal grants from the Wright Center and the Health Innovation Consortium to fund the registry. Serving as the principal investigator of the COVID-19 registry has allowed me to collaborate widely with many researchers in VCU and outside of VCU in order to yield high impact studies that could potentially make positive changes to treatment of patients with COVID-19 infection. In addition, I have participated as a key sub-investigator and co-investigator in multiple COVID-19 clinical trials. My academic and research training, and leadership experiences have provided me with a solid foundation and the motivation necessary to successfully carry out and complete research projects including the proposed project on health literacy in NAFLD.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

Positions and Employment

2019-present Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Hospitalist Physician,
Department of Internal Medicine (DOIM), VCU Health System

Professional Memberships

2008-2013 Member, International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA)
2009-2012 Member, Emirates Medical Students Society (EMSS)
2016- Member, American College of Physicians (ACP)
2018- Member, American Medical Association (AMA)
2018- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)
2018- Member, American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)
2018-2020 Member, Education Sub-committee of NAFLD Special Interest Group (SIG) - AASLD
2020- Member, American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)
2020- Member, Scientists for Palestine (S4P)
2020-2021 Chair, Medical Sub-committee, Scientists for Palestine (S4P)
2021- Member, ACP Abstract Review Board
2021-2024 Member, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee – ACG
2021-2023 Chair, Summer Scholars Program – ACG
2021-2024 Member, Journals Publications Committee – AASLD
2021-2024 Member, At-Large Steering Committee, Liver Transplantation & Surgery SIG – AASLD
2022- Member, Young Delegates Program – AGA
2022-2024 Member, Membership and Mentorship Subcommittee of NAFLD SIG – AASLD
2022-2025 Society Representative, Intersociety Group on Diversity – ACG

Other Experience

2018 Member of the Institution's Professionalism Committee, VCU.
2018- Peer reviewer, BioMed Central, Frontiers and American Journal of Internal Medicine.
2019 Member of the Institution-wide Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Committee, VCU.
2019-2022 Liver Advocate during the annual Liver Capitol Hill Day, AASLD.
2019- Abstract reviewer for the AASLD in DDW – Category: NAFLD and NASH.
2019- Abstract reviewer for The Liver Meeting® – Category: NAFLD and NASH.
2020- Member, COVID-19 Registries and Clinical Trials Oversight Committee, VCU.
2020- Member, NASH Clinical Research Network (NASH-CRN).
2020- Peer reviewer, Annals of Internal Medicine and Hepatology International.
2021 Peer reviewer, Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology.
2022- Peer reviewer, Clinical Liver Disease, Nutrients, Therapeutic Advances in Gastroenterology.
2022- Member, Divisional Data Committee, Hospital Medicine Division, VCU.

Board Certifications

2019: Internal Medicine

Honors

2008 Ministry of Presidential Affairs (MOPA)-Abu Dhabi Award for Academic Distinction
2012 Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Medical Sciences
2012 Medical Student Teaching Award, Dubai Medical College, Dubai, UAE
2014 Graduation with Honors and Valedictorian of graduating medical class "Summa cum laude"
2015 Outstanding First year Resident award, Department of Internal Medicine, Sheikh Khalifa
Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2015 Resident of the month award. Department of Internal Medicine, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE
2015-2016 Junior Chief Resident of Internal Medicine, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2017 Excellence in Scholarship as an Intern award, Department of Internal Medicine, VCU,
Richmond, VA
2017 Young Achievers award, Internal Medicine ACP Meeting, San Diego, CA

2018	Outstanding Poster Presenter Award, American College of Gastroenterology meeting, Philadelphia, PA
2019	2019 AASLD Emerging Liver Scholar Travel Award, AASLD
2019	Presidential Poster of Distinction, AASLD Liver Meeting 2019, Boston, MA
2019	Outstanding Poster Presenter Award, American College of Gastroenterology meeting, San Antonio, TX
2020	Nominee for the VCU "DOIM Excellence in Research" Award, Richmond, VA
2020	Named among top 10 alumni graduates in the U.S. "DMCG Ambassadors in the United States", Dubai Medical College
2020	Named among Champions of diversity and inclusivity through GME committee involvement, VCU School of Medicine
2020	Featured in the "Member Spotlight" section of AASLD website
2020	Featured Hospitalist in the Division's Newsletter, DOIM, VCU, Richmond, VA
2020	"Hospitalist of the Month", DOIM, VCU, Richmond, VA
2020	Honorary Title "Gazan Sunbird of the New Palestine" from the Palestine Academy for Science and Technology (PALAST), Jerusalem, Palestine
2020	Poster of Distinction, Digestive Disease Week 2020, Chicago, IL
2020	Poster of Distinction, The Liver Meeting Digital Experience 2020, AASLD
2020	Excellence in Research Award, Division of Hospital Medicine, DOIM, VCU, Richmond, VA
2021	"VCU Women Making History" Award, VCU, Richmond, VA
2021	"The Benchmark Award for New Employee", VCU Staff Senate, Richmond, VA
2022	"Hospitalist Physician of the Year" Award, Hospital Medicine Division, DOIM, Richmond, VA
2022	Poster of Distinction, The Liver Meeting 2022, AASLD
2022	Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society, VCU Chapter
2022	Fellow of ACP (FACP)

C. Contributions to Science

1. My early publications addressed the epidemiology and natural history of NAFLD/NASH to highlight the growing disease burden and document its impact on public health and different types of complications associated with this disease.

- a. **Albhaisi S**, Sanyal A. Recent advances in understanding and managing non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *F1000 Research*. 2018. [PMID: 29946426]
- b. **Albhaisi S**, Issa D, Alkhouri N. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: a pandemic disease with multisystem burden. *HepatoBiliary Surgery and Nutrition*. 2018. [PMID: 30498715]
- c. **Albhaisi S**, Sanyal A. Does NASH increase the risk of extrahepatic malignancies? *Clinical Liver Disease, AASLD Journal*. 2020. [PMID: 33868668]
- d. **Albhaisi S**, Nouredin M. Current and potential therapies targeting inflammation in NASH. *Frontiers in Endocrinology*. 2021. [PMID: 34925237]
- e. **Albhaisi S**, Sanyal A. Gene-Environmental Interactions as Metabolic Drivers of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis. *Frontiers in Endocrinology - section Translational Endocrinology*. 2021 [PMID: 34040583]
- f. Sharma A, **Albhaisi S**, Sanyal A. Behavioral Health Disorders related to NASH. *Clinical Liver Disease*. 2022. [PMID: 36033424]
- g. Sharma A, **Albhaisi S**, Sanyal A. Treatment for Obesity in the Context of NASH and Mental Health. *Clinical Liver Disease*. 2022. [PMID: 36033431]
- h. **Albhaisi S**, McClish D, Gal T, Sanyal A. Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease is specifically related to risk of Hepatocellular Cancer but not Extrahepatic Malignancies. *Frontiers in Endocrinology*. 2022. [<https://doi.org/10.3389/fendo.2022.1037211>]

2. In addition to the contributions described above, I documented several unique topics related to the disease, including its relation to gut microbiome and its presence in non-obese individuals. I have also discussed non-invasive diagnostic markers in NAFLD/NASH.

- i. **Albhaisi S**, Bajaj J, Sanyal A. The Role of the Gut Microbiota in Liver Disease. *American Journal of Physiology-Gastroenterology Liver Physiology*. 2019. [PMID: 31657225]

- j. **Albhaisi S**, Chowdhury A, Sanyal A. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in lean individuals. JHEP Reports. 2019. [PMID: 32039383]
- k. **Albhaisi S**, Sanyal A. Applying Non-Invasive Fibrosis Measurements in NAFLD/NASH: Progress to Date. Pharmaceutical Medicine (a Springer Nature Journal). 2019. [PMID: 31933238]
- l. **Albhaisi S**, Bajaj J. The influence of the microbiome on NAFLD and NASH. Clinical Liver Disease, AASLD Journal. 2020. [PMID: 33552480]
- m. **Albhaisi S**, Shamsaddini A, Fagan A, McGeorge S, Sikaroodi M, Gavis E, Patel S, Davis B, Acharya C, Sterling R, Matherly S, Fuchs M, Gillevet P, Bajaj J. Gut Microbial Signature of Hepatocellular Cancer in Men with Cirrhosis. Liver Transplantation. 2021. [PMID: 33492761]
- n. Shams A, McGeorge S, Fagan A, **Albhaisi S**, Gillevet P, Acharya C, Fuchs M, Sterling R, Gavis E, Khoruts A, Bajaj J. Impact of Antibiotic Resistance Genes in Gut Microbiome of Patients with Cirrhosis. Gastroenterology. 2021 [PMID: 33857456]

3. I served as the primary/lead investigator in a study that evaluated the efficacy and safety of a new testosterone replacement agent in hypogonadal males with NAFLD. The drug was proven to be effective with good safety profile.

- a. **Albhaisi S**, Kim K, Baker J, Chidambaram N, Patel M, Charlton M, Sanyal A. LPCN 1144 resolves non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in hypogonadal males. Hepatology Communications. 2020. [PMID: 33024914]

4. I served as a co-investigator in several studies about liver transplantation, including for patients with NASH cirrhosis. These studies addressed critical aspects of transplantation, particularly cardiovascular events in liver transplant recipients and discordance in hepatocellular carcinoma staging between pre- and post- liver transplantation.

- b. Siddiqui MB, Arshad T, Patel S, Lee E, **Albhaisi S**, Sanyal A, Stravitz T, Driscoll C, Sterling R, Reichman T, Bhati C, and Siddiqui MS. Small Dense Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Predicts Cardiovascular Events In Liver Transplant Recipients. Hepatology. 2019. [PMID: 30672598]
- c. Siddiqui MB, Patel S, Arshad T, Lee E, **Albhaisi S**, Driscoll C, Wolver S, Reichman T, Bhati C, Siddiqui MS. The Relationship Between Hypoadiponectinemia and Cardiovascular Events in Liver Transplant Recipients. Transplantation. 2019. [PMID: 30946215]
- d. **Albhaisi S**, Bajaj J. Cognitive function in liver transplantation. Current Reports in Transplantation, Springer Journal. 2020
- e. Lee H; McClish D; John B; Winks S; Clayton R; **Albhaisi S**; Allawy A; Patel S; Fields E; Matherly S; Strife B; Bhati C; Sharma A; Sterling R. Liver cancer understaging in liver transplantation in the current era of radiologic imaging and newer generation locoregional therapies. Hepatoma Research. 2022. [http://dx.doi.org/10.20517/2394-5079.2021.139]

5. NASH cirrhosis is a serious complication of NAFLD and is major cause of liver-related deaths worldwide. These studies demonstrate implications of cirrhosis and emphasize the multi-dimensional outcomes of cirrhosis. This body of work also discusses gender disparities in cirrhosis, and utilizes innovative technologies to improve the quality of life of patients with cirrhosis.

- f. Rubin JB, Srisengfa YT, **Albhaisi S**, Acharya C, Nangia G, Shaikh T, Thacker LR, Reddy KR, Tandon P, Bajaj JS, Lai JC. Hospitalized women with cirrhosis have more non-hepatic comorbidities and associated complications than men. Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology. 2019. [PMID: 31593766]
- g. Ganapathy D, Acharya C, Lachar J, Patidar K, Sterling RK, White M, Matherly S, Shaw J, **Albhaisi S**, Siddiqui MS, Puri P, Sanyal A, Luketic V, Lee H, Stravitz T, Bajaj J. Use of Patient Buddy Application to Disseminate Knowledge & Prevent Readmission. 2019-ongoing.
- h. Acharya C, **Albhaisi S**, McGeorge S, Shaw J, White M, Bajaj J. Brain Dysfunction in Liver Disease. 2019-ongoing.

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:

<https://www-ncbi-nlm-nih-gov.proxy.library.vcu.edu/myncbi/1ps0olasYwc5kk/bibliography/public/>