



COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER

Published by The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics—HC-MASA (www.hc-masa.org)

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The Council's Seminar Series

The High-Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics (HC-MASA or The Council) started its Council's Seminar Series on November 19, 2020. The Seminar Series is an opportunity where graduate students, faculty, and scientists can present their research findings in a virtual format through Zoom to the Council's members and friends. Research opportunities and issues in higher education worldwide can also be discussed.

The first session was held on November 19, 2020 and was entitled *"Studies in the USA"* where Dr. My Abdelmajid Kassem and Dr. Khalid Meksem discussed aspects of undergraduate and graduate admissions in US institutions of higher education. Fourteen participants from Morocco, USA, France, and Canada attended the session which was a good start for the seminar series. The second session was held on December 26, 2020 and was entitled *"The Fulbright Scholarship Program: Scientific, Cultural Exchange and Beyond. Opportunities for Moroccan Students and Early-Career Scientists in the US"*. The presenter was Mr. Oussama Badad, a former Fulbright Scholar and PhD candidate.

The audience is increasing and students, faculty, and scientists enjoyed the exchanges from these experts. The Council's goal is to facilitate the exchange process between Morocco and the US for students and scientists alike.

The Council is calling for presenters and faculty, scientists, and particularly PhD students in their final stage of research to present their research findings and be trained in communicating their findings in English. Presentations in all academic fields are encouraged including but not limited to life and medical sciences, chemistry, physics, mathematics, social sciences, agricultural sciences, etc. Videos of these sessions, when recorded, will be available on YouTube.

The Council's Team

In This Issue

- The Council's Seminar Series
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- Atlas Publishing, LLC's Call For Papers
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- Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem STEM Scholarship
- And much more!

Council's Members Published Articles (July 2020–January 2021)

- Mariola Klepadlo*, **Naoufal Lakhssassi***, Gunvant Patil, Tri D. Vuong, Sarbottam Piya, Tarek Hewezi, Robert T. Robbins, Robert M. Stupar, **Khalid Meksem**, Henry T. Nguyen. Dissecting nematode resistance regions in soybean reveals pleiotropic effect of soybean cyst and reniform nematode resistance genes. *Plant Genome*, 2020, In-press.
- Naoufal Lakhssassi**, Zhou Zhou, Shiming Liu, Sarbottam Piya, Gunvant B. Patil, Mallory A. Cullen, **Abdelhalim El Baz**, Oussama Badad, Mohamed G. Embaby, Jonas Meksem, Aicha Lakhssassi, Amer AbuGhazaleh, Michael Fromm, Henry Nguyen, Tarek Hewezi, and **Khalid Meksem**. Soybean TILLING-by-Sequencing+ reveals the role of novel GmSACPD members in the unsaturated fatty acid biosynthesis while maintaining healthy nodules. *Experimental Botany*, 2020.
- Naoufal Lakhssassi**, Azam Baharlouei, Jonas Meksem, Scott D. Hamilton-Brehm, David A. Lightfoot, **Khalid Meksem**, and Yanna Liang. EMS-induced mutagenesis of *Clostridium carboxidivorans* for increased atmospheric CO₂ reduction efficiency and solvent production. *Microorganisms*, 2020.
- Naoufal Lakhssassi**, Sarbottam Piya, Dounya Knizia, **Abdelhalim El Baz**, Cullen Mallory, Jonas Meksem, Aicha Lakhssassi, Tarek Hewezi, and **Khalid Meksem**. Mutations at the Serine Hydroxymethyltransferase impact its interaction with a Soluble NSF Attachment Protein and a Pathogenesis-Related Protein in soybean. *Vaccines*, 2020, (8) 349.
- Naoufal Lakhssassi**, Sarbottam Piya, Sadia Bekal, Shiming Liu, Zhou Zhou, Catherine Bergounioux, Long Miao, Jonas Meksem, Aicha Lakhssassi, Karen Jones, **My Abdelmajid Kassem**, Moussa Benhamed, **Abdelhafid Bendahmane**, Kris Lambert, Adnane Boualem, Tarek Hewezi, and **Khalid Meksem**. A pathogenesis related protein GmPR10-08 promotes a molecular interaction between the GmSHMT08 and GmSNAP18 in resistance to *Heterodera glycines*. *Plant Biotechnology*, 2020.
- Altemimi, A.B.; Mohammed, M.J.; Yi-Chen, L.; Watson, D.G.; **Lakhssassi, N.**; Cacciola, F.; Ibrahim, S.A. Optimization of Ultrasonicated Kaempferol Extraction from *Ocimum basilicum* Using a Box–Behnken Design and Its Densitometric Validation. *Foods*, 2020, 9, 1379.
- Al-sahlany STG, Altemimi AB, Al-Manhel AJA, Niamah AK, **Lakhssassi N.**, and Ibrahim S. Purification of Bioactive Peptide with Antimicrobial Properties Produced by *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Foods*, 2020. 9 (3), 324.
- Al-Hashimi AG, Ammar AB, Cacciola F, and **Lakhssassi N.** Development of a Millet Starch Edible Film Containing Clove Essential Oil. *Foods*, 2020. 9 (2), 184.
- Asaad Rehman Saeed Al-Hilphy, Ammar B. Al-Temimi, Hassan Mehdi, Uttpal Anand, Gonzalo Delgado Pando, and **Naoufal Lakhssassi**. Ultrasound applications in poultry meat processing: A systematic review. *Journal of Food Science*, 2020. 85(6). DOI: 10.1111/1750-3841.15135.
- Alaa R. Abdulstar, Ammar Altemimi, Asaad Rehman Saeed Al-Hilphy, Dennis Watson, and **Naoufal Lakhssassi**. Water distillation using an Ohmic heating apparatus. *Int. J. Ambient Energy*, 2020. 10.1080/01430750.2020.1773924.
- Jiazheng Yuan, Nacer Bellaloui, **Naoufal Lakhssassi**, Samer M. AbuBakr, Safiah Kassem, Zakariah Kassem, Sakinah Kassem, Courtney Barnes, Aisha McLelland, Barbara Brown, Wendy Adams, Tarik El-Mellouki, **Khalid Meksem**, and **My Abdelmajid Kassem**. Evaluation of Yield Performance of Soybean Mutant FM6-847 in North Carolina. *Atlas Journal of Plant Biology*, 2020, pp. 96–105.
- Belhaj K, F. Mansouri, M. Sindic, Y.Taaifi, M. Boukharta, H. Serghini-Caid and **A. Elamrani** (August 2020): Effect of the concentrate-based finishing on the proximate composition, organoleptic quality and fatty acids profile of the Beni-Guil sheep meat, E3S Web of Conferences (I2CNP 2020), 183, 04001. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202018304001>.
- Belhaj K., Mansouri F., Ben moumen A., Sindic M., Fauconnier M.L., Boukharta M., Serghini Caid H., **Elamrani A.** (December 2020) : Fatty acids, health lipid indices and cholesterol content of four sheep meats from Moroccan pastures, *Arch. Animal Breeding* 63: 471–482, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.5194/aab-6-1-2020>.
- Belhaj Kamal, Farid Mansouri, Darouiche Oumaima, Khamri Mohamed, Chaouki Belbachir, **Elamrani Ahmed** (July 2020): Prevalence and antimicrobial resistance of bacteria isolated from Beni-Guil lamb carcasses in eastern Morocco, *Asian J Agric & Biol.* 2020; 8 (3): 368–376. <https://doi.org/10.35495/ajab.2019.07.325>.
- Houmy N, R.Melhaoui, K. Belhaj, A. Richel, M. Sindic, C. Hano, S. Kodad, A. Mihamou, M. Addi, M. Abid and **A. Elamrani** (August 2020): Chemical characterization of almond meal as a co-product of the mechanical extraction of almond oil E3S Web of Conferences (I2CNP 2020), 183,

Council's Members Published Articles (July 2020–January 2021)–Continued

04004. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202018304004>.
- Kodad S, R. Melhaoui, N. Houmy, M. Addi, H. Serghini-Caid, **A. Elamrani**, M. Abid & A. Mihamou (August 2020): Evaluation of pomological and biochemical quality of Moroccan almond native genetic resources for conservation of biodiversity, E3S Web of Conferences (I2CNP 2020), 183, 04005. <https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202018304005>.
- Lazzerini PE, **Boutjdir M**, Capecchi PL. Circulation. COVID-19, Arrhythmic Risk, and Inflammation: Mind the Gap!. 2020 Jul 7; 142(1):7-9. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.047293.
- Boutjdir M**, Lazzerini PE. A Novel Peptide/Antibody-Based Antiarrhythmic Approach to Long QT Syndrome and Beyond. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020 May 5;75(17):2153-2155. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2020.03.027.
- Lazzerini PE, Laghi-Pasini F, Acampa M, **Boutjdir M**, Leopoldo Capecchi P. IL-6 (Interleukin 6) Blockade and Heart Rate Corrected QT Interval Prolongation in COVID-19. Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2020 Sep;13(9):e008791. doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.120.008791.
- Srivastava U, Jennings-Charles R, Qu YS, Sossalla S, Chahine M, **Boutjdir M**. Novel re-expression of L-type calcium channel Ca v 1.3 in left ventricles of failing human heart. Heart Rhythm. 2020 Jul;17(7):1193-1197. doi: 10.1016/j.hrthm.2020.02.025. Epub 2020 Feb 27.
- Pietro Enea Lazzerini, Iacopo Bertolozzi, Maurizio Acampa, Silvia Cantara, Maria Grazia Castagna, Laura Pieragnoli, Antonio D'Errico, Marco Rossi, Stefania Bisogno, Nabil El-Sherif, **Mohamed Boutjdir**, Franco Laghi-Pasini, Pier Leopoldo Capecchi. Androgen Deprivation Therapy for Prostatic Cancer in Patients With Torsades de Pointes. Front Pharmacol. 2020 May 13;11:684. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2020.00684.
- An J, Althiab Almasaud R, Bouzayen M, **Zouine M**, Chervin C. Auxin and ethylene regulation of fruit set. Plant Sci. 2020; 292:110381. doi: 10.1016/j.plantsci.2019.110381. Epub 2019 Dec 17.
- Petek M, Zagorščak M, Ramšak Ž, Sanders S, Tomaž Š, Tseng E, **Zouine M**, Coll A, Gruden K. Cultivar-specific transcriptome and pan-transcriptome reconstruction of tetraploid potato. Sci Data. 2020 Jul 24;7(1):249. doi: 10.1038/s41597-020-00581-4.
- Hu G, Huang B, Wang K, Frasse P, Maza E, Djari A, Benhamed M, Gallusci P, Li Z, **Zouine M**, Bouzayen M. Histone posttranslational modifications rather than DNA methylation underlie gene reprogramming in pollination-dependent and pollination-independent fruit set in tomato. New Phytol. 2020 Sep 2. doi: 10.1111/nph.16902.
- Bouzroud S, Gasparini K, Hu G, Barbosa MAM, Rosa BL, Fahr M, Bendaou N, Bouzayen M, Zsögön A, Smouni A, **Zouine M**. Down Regulation and Loss of Auxin Response Factor 4 Function Using CRISPR/Cas9 Alters Plant Growth, Stomatal Function and Improves Tomato Tolerance to Salinity and Osmotic Stress. Genes (Basel). 2020 Mar 3;11(3):272. doi: 10.3390/genes11030272.
- Wang S, Chen Z, Zhu S, Lu H, Peng D, **Soutto M**, Naz H, Peek R Jr, Xu H, Zaika A, Xu Z, El-Rifai W. PRDX2 protects against oxidative stress induced by H. pylori and promotes resistance to cisplatin in gastric cancer. Redox Biol. 2020 Jan;28:101319. doi: 10.1016/j.redox.2019.101319.
- Zhu S, Khalafi S, Chen Z, Poveda J, Peng D, Lu H, **Soutto M**, Que J, Garcia-Buitrago M, Zaika A, El-Rifai W. Silencing of miR490-3p by H. pylori activates DARPP-32 and induces resistance to gefitinib. Cancer Lett. 2020 Oct 28;491:87-96. doi: 10.1016/j.canlet.2020.07.014.
- Yachou Y, **El Idrissi A**, Belapasov V, Ait Benali S. Neuroinvasion, neurotropic, and neuroinflammatory events of SARS-CoV-2: understanding the neurological manifestations in COVID-19 patients. Neurol Sci. 2020 Oct;41(10):2657-2669. doi: 10.1007/s10072-020-04575-3.
- Hamza Zine**, Sara Elgadi, Rachid Hakkou, Eleni G. Papazoglou, Laila Midhat, and Ahmed Ouhammou (2020) Wild Plants for the Phytostabilization of Phosphate Mine Waste in Semi-Arid Environments: A Field Experiment. Minerals 2021, 11, 42. <https://doi.org/10.3390/min11010042>.
- Hamza Zine**, Laila Midhat, Rachid Hakkou, Mariam El Adnani, and Ahmed Ouhammou (2020) Guidelines for a phytomanagement plan by the phytostabilization of mining wastes. Scientific African 10 (2020) e00654.
- Zine Hamza**, Hakkou Rachid, El Adnani Mariam, Lamnai Kamal, Elgadi Sara, Ait B. Rachid, Midhat Laila, Eleni G. Papazoglou, Loutfi Kenza, Hafidi Mohamed, Smouni Abdelaziz, and Ouhammou Ahmed (2020) Phytostabilization of store-and-release cover made with phosphate mine wastes in arid and semiarid climate using wild local plants. Remediation 31 (1): 105-122. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rem.21662>.
- Ravindranath MH and **F El-Hilali** (2021) Monospecific and Polyreactive Monoclonal Antibodies against Human Leukocyte Antigen-E: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Relevance. Book Chapter published in InTechOpen. <http://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.95235>.

Congratulations to Our Members!

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The Council's Seminar Series Spring 2021 Schedule and Call For Presentations



As stated above, the High-Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics (HC-MASA or The Council) started its Council's Seminar Series on November 19, 2020. The Seminar Series is an opportunity where graduate students, faculty, and scientists can present their research findings in a virtual format through Zoom to the Council's members and friends.

We are calling for presentations to fill in several time slots in the current spring 2021 schedule which is ongoing until June 19, 2021. If you are interested to present in fall 2021, please contact Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem at abdelmajidk@gmail.com. Dr. Kassem is the coordinator of the Council's Seminar series. We welcome presentations in all fields in academia including but not limited to Biological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Mathematics, Statistics, Chemistry, Physics, Social and Human Sciences, Political Sciences, etc. The Seminar Series Schedule for this AY (Fall 2020 - Spring 2021) is below:

Presenter(s)	Topic	Date
Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem and Dr. Khalid Meksem	Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Fellowships in the USA	November 19, 2020
Mr. Oussama Badad	The Fulbright Scholarship Program: Scientific, Cultural Exchange and Beyond, Opportunities for Moroccan Students and Early Career Scientists in the US	December 17, 2020
Presenter(s)	Topic	Date
Mr. Oussama Badad	Olive: A Multidisciplinary Approach OMICS to Bring Insight Into the Biology and Evolution is Oleander europaea	January 23, 2021
Dr. Naoufal Lakhssassi	Tilling By Target Exome Capture Sequencing As New and Effective Platform for Gene Functional Analysis.	February 20, 2021
Dr. Tarik El Mellouki	Mining microbial biosynthetic gene clusters, the "gold rush" of the 21st century	March 20, 2021
Dr. Mohamed Soutto	Loss of TFF1 Promotes Activation of Oncogenic Pathways in Gastric Neoplasia	April 17, 2021
Soukayna Kodad	Characterization of the local (Beldi) almond ecotypes in eastern Morocco	May 22, 2021
Kamal Belhaj	Dietary hempseed, turmeric and black pepper as ingredients in a new strategy for enrichment of chicken meat with omega-3 fatty acids	June 19, 2021

Many Thanks To Our Presenters!

Council's Members Conference Presentations (July 2020–January 2021)



International e-Conference on Climate Nexus Perspectives: Water, Food and Biodiversity (I2CNP 2020), organized by the research team of environment and natural resources management at the Higher School of Technology of Khenifra, Sultan Moulay Slimane University in Morocco. (**Dr. Lahcen El Youssefi**, On behalf of the Editorial Team)

Lin: <https://www.e3s-conferences.org/articles/e3sconf/abs/2020/43/contents/contet5.html>. Topic: Food Security and Quality Challenges and Preservation of Agro-Ecosystems.

E-Conf-Oral Com, (**Kamal Belhaj**): Effect of rearing season on the sheep meat quality traits of Beni-Guil breed from the highlands of Morocco; **K. Belhaj**, F. Mansouri, M. Sindic, Y. Taaifi, M. Boukharta, H. Serghini-Caid & **A. Elamrani**, Research team: "Agri-food., Ecophysio. & Plant Biotech". "LAPABE" Lab, Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed the First University, Oujda, Morocco.

E-conf- Oral Com, (Nadia Houmy): Chemical characterization of almond meal as a co-product of the mechanical extraction of almond oil; N. Houmy, R. Melhaoui, **K. Belhaj**, A. Richel, M. Sindic, C Hano, S. Kodad, A. Mihamou, M. Addi, M. Abid & **A. Elamrani**; Research team: "Agri-food., Ecophysio. & Plant Biotech". "LAPABE" Lab, Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed the First University, Oujda, Morocco.

E-conf- Oral Com, (Souhayla Kodad): Micropropagation of promising almond genetic resources based on oxidative stability of edible seed oils; Kodad S., Melhaoui R., Addi M., **Elamrani A.**, Serghini-Caid H., Abid M., Mihamou A. Research team: "Agri-food., Ecophysio. & Plant Biotech". "LAPABE" Lab, Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed the First University, Oujda, Morocco.

"NSABS 2020", 25th National Symposium for Applied Biological Sciences, University of Liège, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech-Campus, 31 January 2020, Belgium. Link: <https://www.gembloux.ulg.ac.be/nsabs-2020>.

Poster : Trace element and essential amino acids content in Longissimus Lumborum muscle from three sheep meats reared in outdoor conditions, K. Belhaj, F. Mansouri, M. Sindic, M. Boukharta, H. Serghini Caid, A. Elamrani; Research team: "Agri-food., Ecophysio. & Plant Biotech". "LAPABE" Lab, Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed the First University, Oujda Morocco.

Poster: Effect of region of almond trees growing and Almond varieties on the quality of their almond oils, R. Melhaoui, S. Kodad, M. Abid, H. Serghini-caid, M. Sindic and A. Elamrani. Research team: "Agri-food., Ecophysio. & Plant Biotech". "LAPABE" Lab, Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed the First University, Oujda Morocco.

Poster: Micropropagation of selected Almond genotypes (*Prunus dulcis* Mill.) cultivated in Eastern Morocco based on their pomological studies, S. Kodad, R. Melhaoui, M. Boukharta, M. Addi, H. Serghini, A. Elamrani, M. Abid, A. Mihamou. Research team: "Agri-food., Ecophysio. & Plant Biotech". "LAPABE" Lab, Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed the First University, Oujda Morocco.

Kassem MA. Genetic Mapping of Seed Isoflavone Content in Soybean. Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVIII, January 11–15, 2020, San Diego, CA, USA. Oral Presentation.

Yuan J, N Lakhssasi, N Bellaloui, S Kassem, Z Kassem, S Viera, S Blount, L Rashad, D Okunbor, **K Meksem**, and **MA Kassem**. Correlation Analysis of the Essential Amino Acids with Other Quality Traits in Soybean Mutant FM6-847. Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVIII, January 11–15, 2020, San Diego, CA, USA.

Yuan J, N Lakhssasi, N Bellaloui, F Betts, T Register, E Williams, T Vuong, H Nguyen, **K Meksem**, and **MA Kassem**. Seed Protein, Oil, and Isoflavone Contents in 'Williams 82' by 'Forrest' Recombinant Inbred Line Population of Soybean. Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVIII, January 11–15, 2020, San Diego, CA, USA.

Prof. Khalid Meksem (Section Editor-In-Chief) and Dr. Abdelhafid Bendahmane (Section Board Member) of Plant Genomics, Genetics and Biotechnology of the Journal Plants.

**This is a Call For Papers: Please submit your manuscripts to these Special Issues (Plant-Nematodes Interactions and QTL Mapping of Seed Quality Traits in Crops).
Thank you!**

Congratulations to our VP-USA, Prof. Khalid Meksem from the Department of Plant, Soil, and Agricultural Systems, College of Agriculture, Southern Illinois University who has been appointed as the *Section Editor-in-Chief of Plant Genomics, Genetics and Biotechnology* Section of the peer-reviewed journal *Plants* (IF = 2.762) and our VP-Europe, Dr. Abdelhafid Bendahmane of INRA, France who was appointed as an Editorial Board member of '*Plant Genetics, Genomics and Biotechnology*' of *Plants*.



Prof. Khalid Meksem
Section Editor-in-Chief

School of Agricultural Science; College of Agricultural, Life and Physical Sciences Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901-4415, USA.

Interests: Plant nematode interactions; mutation breeding; forward and reverse genetics; seed traits and seed composition.

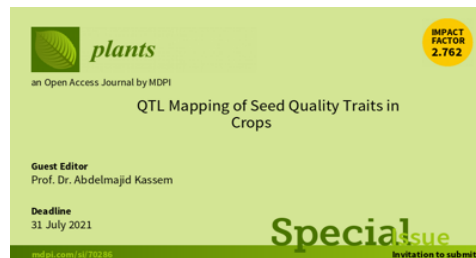
Special Issue in Plants: Plant-Nematodes Interactions



Prof. Dr. Abdelhafid Bendahmane

INRAE & University of Paris-Saclay, Institute of Plant Sciences - Paris-Saclay, Batiment 630, rue de Noetzlin 91190 - Gif-sur-Yvette, France.

Interests: translational Research; sex determination.



Prof. Moulay Abdelmajid Kassem of Fayetteville State University was also appointed as Guest Editor of the Special Issue "**QTL Mapping of Seed Quality Traits in Crops**" in the Section *Plant Genetics, Genomics and Biotechnology* of *Plants*.

Prof. Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem
Guest Editor

Plant Genomics and Biotechnology Lab, Department of Biological and Forensic Sciences, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC 28301, USA.

Interests: plant genetics, genomics, and biotechnology; QTL mapping of important agronomic traits especially seed composition traits in soybean and other crops.



QTL Mapping of Seed Quality Traits in Crops

Guest Editor
Prof. Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem

Deadline
31 July 2021

Special Issue
Invitation to submit

The Council Is Growing and Welcomes Its New Members!



Adel Emekes

Adel Elmekes is preparing his PhD in Cadi Ayyad University, Faculty of Sciences Semlalia, Marrakech. His dissertation subject is about screening of new antimicrobial agents against hospital multidrug resistant bacteria. He is responsible for hospital hygiene unit

and is an active member of the committee against nosocomial infections.



Lamia Yakkou

Lamia earned her MS degree from University Hassan II, Faculty of science and Technology. Currently, she is a PhD student at University Mohammed V, ENS (Rabat, Morocco). Currently, she is on a one year internship as a Visiting Scientist at Atatürk

University in Turkey where she is working on plant-nematode interactions.



Soumaya El Merzougui

Soumaya El Merzougui earned her MS degree in Biology at the Faculty of Sciences, Ibn Zohr University, Agadir, Morocco. She is currently a PhD student in plant biotechnology at the Department of biology, Laboratory of Biotechnology and Valorization of

Natural Resources. Her doctoral work focus on Moroccan saffron culture (*Crocus sativus*) improvement & conservation.



Latifa Azlay

Latifa Azlay earned her BS degree in Biology and is a PhD student at Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech, Morocco, Faculty of Sciences Semlalia where she is working on her PhD in Microbiology and Biocontrol of plant parasitic nematodes.



Wafaa Semmali

Wafaa Semmali earned her BS and MS degrees in Biology and is a PhD student at the Faculty of Sciences, Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco in collaboration with INRA Meknes. Her supervisor is Dr. Abderazzak Bendidi.

razzak Bendidi.



Inass Zayani

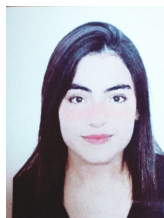
Inass Zayani earned her BS and MS degrees in Biology and is now a PhD in Science and Engineering at Abdelmalik Essadi University, Tangier in collaboration with INRA, Meknes. She is investigating soil fertility in intercropping systems based on olive trees and annual crops in Saiss region, Morocco. She likes drawing, reading books and scientific articles, and traveling.



Zine Hamza

Hamza Zine earned his BS and MS degrees in Biology and is currently a PhD student in AgroSciences, Phyto-biodiversity and Environment at the Faculty of Sciences Semlalia, University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Morocco.

His research interests are in the biodiversity and ecology of vascular local flora and its application in phytomanagement and rehabilitation of mining sites.



Asma Bendjebra

Asma Bendjebra earned her BS in Biology in 2017 and MS in Nutrition and Pathology in 2019 from Ahmed Ben Bella University, Oran, Algeria. She performed several internships at the same university and is a member of APOCE Association, ACO-American Corner Oran Club, and Biologigeeek Club. She also studied Digital Marketing.

She also studied Digital Marketing.



Welcome Dear Members!

Welcome Our New Members!

You are Highly Encouraged to present your PhD findings at the Council's Seminar Series via Zoom. If you are interested, please contact Prof. Kassem at: abdelmajidk@gmail.com



The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics (HC-MASA) to Grant Prof. Moulay Abdelmajid Kassem STEM Scholarship to an Outstanding Student in Agdz, Zagora, Moorocco

Prof. Moulay Abdelmajid Kassem's STEM Scholarship is worth ~\$1,200 (10,000 MAD) and is granted to an outstanding student who earns his or her high school diploma with the highest distinction in one of the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in Agdz, Zagora, Morocco and pursue a BS degree in a STEM discipline in any Moroccan university. The scholarship is funded by

المؤسسة المسجل بها	المعدل	التخصص	الاسم
ENSA - Eljadia	17.49	فيزياء	إكرام الدمناتي
الأقسام التحضيرية	17.25	رياضيات	زايد واعمر
ENSA (école d'ingénieur)	16.96	فيزياء	آيت علي الحاج عبد الله
EST - Agadir	16.39	علوم الحياة والأرض	أمينة آيت الطالب
Institut D'infirmier	16.14	علوم الحياة والأرض	آيت احمد سميرة
ENS - Casablanca	15.89	فيزياء	جواد الحسيني
Faculte Polydisciplinaire	14.98	فيزياء	باعيسى ثويبة
Faculte des Sciences	14.58	رياضيات	السعيدة آيت علي محمد
Faculte des Sciences	14.13	فيزياء	نرجس آيت باحمد
Faculte des Sciences Economiques	14.04	علوم الحياة والأرض	السعيدة الكامي

Prof. Kassem and is managed by the Council (HC-MASA). It is granted to students in high need in the region of Agdz, the native town of Prof. Kassem, in southeastern Morocco. Students from two high schools compete every year for the scholarship. These high schools are "Idriss I High School, Agdz" and "Ibn Sinaa High School, Tamnougalt". There are two committees that manage the scholarship:

Morocco Committee:

Dr. Hssain Zgou, Faculty of Ouarzazate, University Ibn Zohr, Morocco
Mr. Abdenacer Kasem, Educational Inspector, Essaouira, Morocco
Mr. Abdelkarim Kasem, Middle School Teacher, Agdz, Morocco
Mr. Lahcen Elmaanaoui, Educational Inspector, Agdz, Morocco
Mr. Zrour Karim, High School Teacher, Agdz, Morocco
Mr. Abdelmajid Mouzoun, High School Teacher, Agdz, Morocco

USA Committee:

Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem, Fayetteville State University, USA
Prof. Khalid Meksem, Southern Illinois University, USA
Dr. Karima Hanah, Valdosta State University, USA
Ms. Sanaa Rajaallah, Raleigh, NC, USA



Among the top achievers, 10 students (See the Table above) have been selected by the Moroccan committee and the top student has been selected by the US committee. **The winner of Prof. Moulay Abdelmajid Kassem's 2020-2021 STEM Scholarship is Ms. Ikram ED-Damnati!**



Ms. Ikram ED-Damnati
Undergraduate Student
Ecole Nationale Des Sciences Appliquees
University Chouaib Doukkali
Eljadia, Morocco

Congratulations Ikram!

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Atlas Journal of Biology—AJB

Atlas Journal of Plant Biology—AJPB



Atlas Journal of Science Education—AJSE



Plant Genetics, Genomics, and Biotechnology—PGGB



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