

# Ala Al Rajabi, BSc (Hon), MSc, PhD

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## Highlights of Qualifications

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PhD level nutritional biochemist and health research scientist, with 6 years' experience as a pharmacist and 5 years of postdoctoral training

- BSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Palestine, 2000), 6 years' experience as a pharmacist (Palestine, 2000-2005), MSc in Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism (Tufts University, Boston, USA, 2007), PhD in Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition (Tufts University, Boston, USA, 2011), Postdoctoral Fellow (The group on the Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, February 2012- October 2014), Eyes High Postdoctoral Fellow (The Gastrointestinal Research Group, University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada, November 2014- May 2016), Senior Research Associate (Alberta's Tomorrow Project, Alberta Health Services, Calgary, Canada, June 2016- March 2020), Acting Research Lead (Alberta's Tomorrow Project, Alberta Health Services, Calgary, Canada, September 2017- April 2018), Adjunct Assistant Professor (Departments of Physiology and Pharmacology, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, January 2017- present)
- Comprehensive and multidisciplinary knowledge of health, health research methods, and the complex link between modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors and cancer and chronic diseases development
- Strong understanding of statistical concepts and proven competence in data analysis and interpretation
- Ability to critique literature, spot sound science, interpret research and identify gaps in knowledge
- Excellent collaboration, leadership, management and entrepreneurial skills developed through a career as a pharmacist as well as throughout experiences as a researcher in health sciences
- Self-reliance, flexibility and ability to learn quickly and adapt to changing environments
- Attention to details, strong critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Ability to simultaneously and effectively coordinate and manage multiple priorities and various projects while protecting privacy and ensuring compliance with institutional policies and procedures
- Project management experience obtained via planning, conducting, and evaluating research projects
- Strong computer skills, including productivity software (MS Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook; Adobe Professional) and select statistical packages (GraphPad, SPSS, SAS)
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to translate research into tailored presentations for various audiences
- Understanding micronutrient metabolic pathways, characterization of intermediates and final products
- Experience in designing and conducting cell culture and animal studies in health-related projects, including data collection, analysis, evaluation, and interpretation
- Robust expertise in analytical method development and evaluation, and molecular biology techniques
- Solid multidisciplinary background in biochemistry, nutrition, pharmacy, epidemiology and population-based longitudinal cohorts

## Academic Appointment

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### Adjunct Assistant Professor

Jan 2017- Present

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Cumming School of Medicine  
University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

- Engaging in collaborative research into chronic inflammatory disease with other faculty members
- Serving as a substitute lecturer for selected nutrition subjects at both undergraduate and graduate levels
- Facilitating activities that link the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and its trainees to Alberta's Tomorrow Project

## **Education and Training**

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### **Postdoctoral Fellowship II**

Nov 2014- May 2016

University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

- Dr. Derek McKay Research Laboratory
- Eyes High Postdoctoral Fellow
- Research focus: ER stress, ER stress-induced apoptosis and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)

### **Postdoctoral Fellowship I**

Feb 2012- Oct 2014

University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

- Dr. Rene' Jacobs Research Laboratory
- Research focus: hepatic Pemt, dietary choline, TMAO, and the development of atherosclerosis and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)

### **PhD in Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition**

2007- 2011

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

- Vitamin K Research Laboratory, USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRCA)
- PhD thesis supervisor: Sarah L. Booth, PhD
- Thesis project: Enzymatic Conversion of Phylloquinone to Menaquinone-4

### **Master of Science in Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism**

2005- 2007

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

- Concentration: Cellular Physiology. GPA: 3.69
- Main courses: Principles of Epidemiology, Public Policy for Health Claims of Food, Statistical Methods for Nutrition Research I and II, Nutrition in the Life Cycle, General Nutrition, Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism I and II, Graduate Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology, Gene Expression and Signal Transduction, Human Physiology, Recombinant DNA Techniques

### **Bachelor degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences with High Honors**

1995- 2000

College of Pharmacy

An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine

- Elected President, College of Pharmacy Students' Club, 1999-2000
- GPA: 87.6%

## **Research Experience**

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### **Senior Research Associate**

June 2016- March 2020

Alberta's Tomorrow Project (ATP), CancerControl Alberta

Alberta Health Services (AHS), Calgary, AB, Canada

- Leading, supervising and directing Research Assistants and other ATP team members
- Producing peer-reviewed research publications using ATP data
- Supporting internal and external research activities within ATP and through collaborations with research scientists who access ATP data and bio-specimens
- Reviewing research proposals requesting access to ATP data and bio-specimens for scientific merits, feasibility and alignment with ATP mission and vision
- Coaching supervisees to boost self-confidence, encourage critical thinking, reach full potential, and foster a culture of ownership and accountability
- Improving and enriching ATP platform and resources through involvement -in different capacities- with multiple projects and activities, including:
  - Supervised the development and verification of ICD-O-3 codes list for cancer diagnoses
  - Contributed immensely to the development of comprehensive online ATP data dictionaries for all 14 ATP questionnaires and data sources containing more than 2,600 variables
  - Directed and supervised the development of ATP User Guides for all ATP questionnaires

- Contributed to the development and implementation of Knowledge Bank project for bio-samples analysis, BioNuGut feasibility study, and the 2018 ATP scientific brochure and newsletter

### **Acting Research Lead**

Sep 2017- Apr 2018

Alberta's Tomorrow Project (ATP), CancerControl Alberta  
Alberta Health Services (AHS), Calgary, AB, Canada

- Managed, mentored and led members of the research team to develop projects and peer-reviewed publications that align with the scientific vision of ATP
- Provided scientific input in support of best research practice and research operations
- Played a role in stakeholder engagement as well as promotional and outreach activities including ATP data and bio-specimens access seminars and presentations to evidence users
- Contributed to developing ATP's research strategy and impact evaluation
- Contributed to knowledge translation and research dissemination
- Fostered scientific relationships with external researchers through scientific collaboration and support

### **Eyes High Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

Nov 2014- May 2016

Dr. Derek McKay Research Laboratory, The Gastrointestinal Research Group  
Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Cumming School of Medicine  
University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

- Studied the impact of ER stress and ER stress-induced apoptosis on intestinal epithelium permeability and IBD development, using both cell culture and animals models
- Led two separate research projects designed to define the mechanisms by which vitamin D and TMAO, a gut microflora-dependent metabolite of dietary choline, protect against IBD development
- Compiled and analyzed data, interpreted results and disseminated findings in verbal (presentations) and written formats (peer-reviewed publications/reports)
- Supervised and directed the research work of undergraduate and graduate students
- Collaborated with other lab members on several research projects

### **Postdoctoral Research Scientist**

Feb 2012- Oct 2014

Dr. Rene' Jacobs Research Laboratory  
Metabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases Laboratory, Group on the Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids,  
Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

- Implemented mechanistic approach to evaluate the effect of hepatic Pemt, dietary choline, PC and their dietary metabolite; TMAO, on the development of atherosclerosis and NAFLD in transgenic mice
- Conducted rodent studies to assess the implication of Pemt deletion on dietary choline requirements
- Developed and delivered numerous lectures in nutrition at both undergraduate and graduate levels
- Supervised and directed the research work of undergraduate and graduate students
- Performed histological quantification of atherosclerotic lesion in aortic root of mice
- Compiled and analyzed data, interpreted results and disseminated findings in verbal and written formats
- Trainees council member- Group on the Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids (2013-2104)

### **PhD Candidate in Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition**

Sep 2006- Oct 2011

Dr. Sarah Booth's Vitamin K Research Laboratory, Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRCA)  
Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

- Developed and validated Menadione detection methods using HPLC, then measured vitamin K by HPLC in clinical samples
- Conducted rodent and cell culture studies to examine metabolic conversion of vitamin K
- Compiled and analyzed data, interpreted results and disseminated findings in verbal and written formats
- Certified in "Human Subject Protection Education" through the Tufts Institutional Review Board

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

May 2006- Aug 2006

Dr. Jeffrey Blumberg's Antioxidants Research Laboratory, Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRCA)

Tufts University, Boston, MA, USA

- Performed extensive literature review and frequently ran antioxidant capacity assays: FRAP and ORAC

## **Clinical Experience**

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**Self-Employed Head Pharmacist** 2001- 2005

Al Ribat Pharmacy, Hebron, Palestine

- Founded, oversaw, developed and managed all aspects of pharmacy including clinical, customer relations and business administration
- Hired, trained and supervised assistant pharmacists and interns
- Dispensed medication, provided pharmaceutical advice to patients
- Implemented and developed professional relationships with both patients and drugs suppliers

**Assistant Pharmacist** 2000-2001

Al Quds Pharmacy, Hebron, Palestine

- Managed clinical and customer relations aspects of pharmacy
- Dispensed medications and provided pharmaceutical advice to patients
- Developed professional relationships with both patients and drugs suppliers and manufacturers

## **Teaching Experience**

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**Substitute Lecturer** 2012-2014

Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science

University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

- Taught selected nutrition subjects at both undergraduate and graduate levels
- **Main responsibilities:** prepared lectures material, delivered lectures to students, led the class discussion, prepared and graded exam questions and participated in exams administration
- **Courses:**
  - AFNS 579- Advanced Nutrition: Vitamins and Inorganic Elements. Graduate course. Subject taught: Vitamin K
  - NUTR 479- Advanced Nutrition: Vitamins and Inorganic Elements. Undergraduate course. Subject taught: Vitamin K
  - NUTR 302- Fundamentals of Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism II. Undergraduate course. Subjects taught: Vitamin A and Vitamin D

## **Supervision Experience**

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**Alberta's Tomorrow Project, Alberta Health Services, Calgary, AB, Canada** 2016- 2020

- Mentoring, supervising and directing Research Assistants and other ATP team members

**Metabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases Laboratory, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada**

- Supervised and directed the research work of undergraduate and graduate students 2012- 2014

**The McKay Research Laboratory, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada** 2014- 2016

- Supervised and directed the research work of undergraduate and graduate students

**Al Ribat Pharmacy, Hebron, Palestine** 2001- 2005

- Mentored assistant pharmacists and trained interns

## **Selected Courses, Workshops and Certificates**

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**Health Promotion Foundations, web-based** August, 2020

Public Health Ontario

- An introduction to health promotion in Canada, including: a history of health promotion in Canada, definitions and concepts, models and theories, behaviour change and health promotion strategies
- A certificate is issued upon completing a series of nine interactive web-based modules

- Knowledge and skills needed to identify disparities among population groups and how to reduce them
- A certificate is issued upon completing a series of five interactive web-based modules

**Training Course on Research Impact Assessment**, Banff, AB, Canada March 5-8, 2017  
Alberta Innovates in affiliation with the International School on Research Impact Assessment

- An intensive four-day long course of interactive lectures workshops
- Objectives: to build capacity to plan, implement and communicate the findings of research impact assessments (RIAs) to inform decision making and increase Alberta's global competitiveness in research and innovation

**Management and Leadership Development Courses**, Calgary, AB, Canada 2016- 2020  
Talent and Leadership Development, Alberta Health Services (AHS)

- **Leader as Coach** (two-day) November 28-29, 2017
  - Objectives: to guide leaders through a workplace high-performance coaching model that dares leaders to see the greatness in others, challenge them to live up to their own high standards, and hold them accountable for outstanding performance
- **Situational Leadership** (full-day) February 8, 2017
  - Objectives: to enhance leaders' ability to manage employees effectively, align employee performance with organizational goals and to continually develop employees' skills and performance
- **Emotionally Intelligent Leader** (full-day) January 19, 2017
  - Objectives: to understand Emotional Intelligence and its role in effective leadership
- **Constructive Conversation for Leaders** (full-day) September 26, 2016
  - Objectives: to give leaders the needed tools to be constructive as they prepare for, hold, and follow-up on conversations
- **Accountable Leadership** (full-day) August 23, 2016
  - Objectives: to define accountability and offer strategies to create more effective leaders who foster accountability in self, their team and the organization
- **Pathway to Resolution** (half-day) August 4, 2016
  - Objectives: to provide participants with the skills and a process to solve interpersonal conflicts directly with those involved in the situation to achieve effective resolutions
- **Multiple online Alberta Health Services courses and certificates** 2016- 2020

## **Skills**

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- **Epidemiology, public health and general research skills**
  - **Statistical skills:** strong understanding of statistical concepts, proven competence in data analysis and interpretation, and experience with PRISM, SPSS and SAS statistical software
  - **Multidisciplinary research background:** well-founded comprehension of biological processes, disease development, prevention and association with environmental risk factors
  - **Computer software proficiency:** bibliographic database management software (Mendeley, EndNotes and RefWorks), and Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint and Excel)
  - **Communication and collaboration skills:** attained and perfected through careers as a pharmacist and a researcher. Able to tailor and communicate complex ideas to various audience
  - **Attention to details and critical thinking skills:** able to critique literature, spot sound science, summarize the state of the evidence and identify gaps in knowledge
  - Resourceful, independent, flexible, able to learn quickly and adapt to changing environments with exceptional practical problem-solving and decision-making capabilities
- **Interpersonal, leadership, management and entrepreneurial skills:** acquired through founding and management of self-owned pharmacy, serving as president of College of Pharmacy Students' Club (An Najah National University) and on The Group on the Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids' council

(University of Alberta), and through leading and collaborating with internal and external stakeholders within Alberta's Tomorrow project

- **Laboratory skills:**
  - Expertise in compound extraction techniques and analytical method development and validation using HPLC, LC-MS and LC-MS/MS
  - Enzyme immunoassay (EIA) and various spectrophotometric assays
  - Molecular biology experience in recombinant DNA techniques including cloning
  - Proficiency in DNA and RNA extraction, primer design, genotyping, PCR, real-time quantitative PCR (qPCR) and macromolecule blotting methods (western, southern and northern blots)
  - Expertise in designing, conducting and evaluating animal and cell culture studies
  - General animal handling skills including collecting blood and various tissues
- **Languages:** Arabic (native), English (fluent), French (working knowledge), Hebrew (basic)

## **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

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- Maximova K, Khodayari Moez E, Dabravolskaj J, Ferdinands AR, Dinu I, Lo Siou G, Al Rajabi A, Veugelers PJ. "Co-consumption of Vegetables and Fruit, Whole Grains, and Fiber Reduces the Cancer Risk of Red and Processed Meat in a Large Prospective Cohort of Adults from Alberta's Tomorrow Project." *Nutrients*. **2020** Jul 29;12(8):E2265. doi: 10.3390/nu12082265
- Mancini NL, Goudie L, Xu W, Sabouny R, Rajeev S, Wang A, Esquerre N, Al Rajabi A, Jayme TS, van Tilburg Bernandes E, Nasser Y, Ferraz JGP, Shutt T, Shearer J, McKay DM. "Perturbed mitochondrial dynamics is a novel feature of colitis that can be targeted to lessen disease." *Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CMGH)*. **2020**;10(2):287-307. doi: 10.1016/j.jcmgh.2020.04.004
- Solbak NM, Al Rajabi A, Akawung AK, Lo Siou G, Kirkpatrick SI, Robson PJ. "Strategies to Address Misestimation of Energy Intake Based on Self-Report Dietary Consumption in Examining Associations Between Dietary Patterns and Cancer Risk." *Nutrients*. **2019**; 11(11), 2614. doi: 10.3390/nu11112614.
- Haig TR, Akawung AK, Al Rajabi A, Vena JE, Whelan HK, Kopciuk KA. "Reductions in Secondhand Smoke Exposure among Non-smokers Post-legislation." *Tobacco Regulatory Science*. **2019**; 5 (5): 463-479(17). doi: 10.18001/TRS.5.5.7.
- Ellis JL, Fu X, Al Rajabi A, Grusak MA, Shearer MJ, Naumova EN, Saltzman E, Barger K, Booth SL. "Plasma Response to Deuterium-Labeled Vitamin K Intake Varies by TG Response, but Not Age or Vitamin K Status, in Older and Younger Adults." *The Journal of Nutrition*. **2019**; 149(1):18-25. doi: 10.1093/jn/nxy216.
- Zia Y, Al Rajabi A, Mi S, Ju T, Leonard KA, Nelson R, Thiesen A, Willing BP, Field CJ, Curtis JM, van der Veen JN, Jacobs RL. "Hepatic Expression of PEMT, but Not Dietary Choline Supplementation, Reverses the Protection against Atherosclerosis in Pemt-/-/Ldlr-/- Mice." *The Journal of Nutrition*. **2018**; 148(10):1513-1520. doi: 10.1093/jn/nxy165.
- Lopes F, Keita ÅV, Saxena A, Reyes JL, Mancini N, Al Rajabi A et al. "ER-stress mobilization of death-associated protein kinase-1-dependent xenophagy counteracts mitochondria stress-induced epithelial barrier dysfunction." *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. **2018**; 293(9):3073-3087. doi: 10.1074/jbc.RA117.000809.
- Solbak NM, Xu JY, Vena JE, Al Rajabi A, Vaseghi S, Whelan HK, McGregor SE. "Patterns and predictors of adherence to colorectal cancer screening recommendations in Alberta's Tomorrow Project participants stratified by risk." *BMC Public Health*. **2018**; 18(1):177. doi: 10.1186/s12889-018-5095-4.
- Matisz CE, Faz-López B, Thomson E, Al Rajabi A, Lopes F, Terrazas LI, Wang A, Sharkey KA, McKay DM. "Suppression of colitis by adoptive transfer of helminth antigen-treated dendritic cells requires interleukin-4 receptor- $\alpha$  signaling." *Scientific Reports*. **2017**; 7:40631. doi: 10.1038/srep40631.
- Lo Siou G, Csizmadi I, Boucher BA, Akawung AK, Whelan HK, Sharma M, Al Rajabi A, Vena JE, Kirkpatrick SI, Koushik A, Massarelli I, Rondeau I, Robson PJ. "The Comparative Reliability and Feasibility of the Past-Year Canadian Diet History Questionnaire II: Comparison of the Paper and Web Versions." *Nutrients*. **2017**; 9(2). doi: 10.3390/nu9020133.
- Al Rajabi A, Castro GS, da Silva RP, Nelson RC, Thiesen A, Vannucchi H, Vine DF, Proctor SD, Field CJ, Curtis JM, Jacobs RL. "Choline Supplementation Protects against Liver Damage by Normalizing

Cholesterol Metabolism in Pemt/Ldlr Knockout Mice Fed a High-Fat Diet.” The Journal of Nutrition. **2014**; 144(3): 252-257. doi: 10.3945/jn.113.185389.

- da Silva RP, Kelly KB, Al Rajabi A, Jacobs RL. “Novel Insights on Interactions between Folate and Lipid Metabolism.” BioFactors. **2014**; 40(3):277-83. doi: 10.1002/biof.1154.
- Al Rajabi A, Booth SL, Peterson JW, Choi SW, Suttie JW, Shea MK, Miao B, Grusak MA, Fu X. “Deuterium-Labeled Phylloquinone Has Tissue-Specific Conversion to Menaquinone-4 among Fischer 344 Male Rats.” The Journal of Nutrition. **2012**; 142(5): 841-845. doi: 10.3945/jn.111.155804.
- Truong JT, Fu X, Saltzman E, Al Rajabi A, Booth SL. “Age Group and Sex Do Not Influence Responses of Vitamin K Biomarkers to Changes in Dietary Vitamin K.” The Journal of Nutrition. **2012**; 142(5):936-41. doi: 10.3945/jn.111.154807.
- Al Rajabi A, Peterson JW, Choi SW, Suttie JW, Barakat S, Booth SL. “Measurement of Menadione in Urine by HPLC.” Journal of Chromatography B. **2010**; 878(26): 2457-2460. doi: 10.1016/j.jchromb.2010.07.016.
- Booth SL, Al Rajabi A. “Determinants of Vitamin K Status in Humans.” Vitamins and Hormones. **2008**; 78:1-22. doi: 10.1016/S0083-6729(07)00001-5.

## **Scientific Meetings Presentations**

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**Western Canadian Tobacco Reduction Forum**, Edmonton, AB, Canada 2018  
Campaign for a Smoke-Free Alberta

- Akawung A, Vena JE, Kopciuk K, Shen Tu G, Al Rajabi A. “The 2008 Alberta Tobacco Reduction Act is associated with reduction in active smoking prevalence and intensity: findings from the Alberta’s Tomorrow Project cohort.” Oral presentation

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta (CRINA) Research Day**, Edmonton, AB, Canada 2018  
University of Alberta

- Maximova K, Lo Siou G, Robson PJ, Veugelers P, Vena JE, Al Rajabi A. “Toward refining cancer prevention recommendations for red and processed meat intake: findings from Alberta’s Tomorrow Project.” Poster presentation

**ATP Data and Biospecimens Access Seminar**, Lethbridge, AB, Canada 2018  
University of Lethbridge

- Al Rajabi A. “Alberta’s Tomorrow Project: Health Data to Support Your Research.” Oral presentation

**Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference- Public Health 2018: Tobacco Control Forum**, Montreal, QC, Canada 2018  
Canadian Public Health Association

- Haig TR, Akawung AK, Al Rajabi A, Vena JE, Whelan HK, Kopciuk KA. “The 2008 Alberta Tobacco Reduction Act is associated with reduction in secondhand smoke exposure among non-smokers: results from Alberta’s Tomorrow Project cohort.” Oral presentation

**Canadian Nutrition Society (CNS) Annual Conference**, Halifax, NS, Canada 2018  
Canadian Nutrition Society (CNS)

- Solbak NM, Lo Siou G, Akawung AK, Al Rajabi A, Kirkpatrick SI, Robson PJ. “The effect of energy intake misreporting on the associations between dietary patterns derived by K-means clustering and risk of all cancers: findings from Alberta’s Tomorrow Project cohort.” Poster presentation

**Statistical Society of Canada Annual Meeting**, Montreal, QC, Canada 2018  
Statistical Society of Canada

- Lo Siou G, Solbak NM, Akawung AK, Al Rajabi A, Kirkpatrick SI, Robson PJ. “Comparing methods for identifying energy intake misreporters and the effect of misreporting on dietary patterns derived by K-means clustering: findings from Alberta’s Tomorrow Project cohort.” Poster presentation

**Nutrition 2018**, Boston, MA, USA 2018  
American Society of Nutrition (ASN)

- Ellis JL, Fu X, Al Rajabi A, Karl JP, Grusak MA, Booth SL. "Labeled collard greens are metabolic precursors to Menaquinones: a stable isotope study in male Fischer 344 rats." Poster presentation
- Abstract published in: "Vitamins and Minerals". Current Developments in Nutrition, nzy053, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzy053>. June 2018

**Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB) Biennial Conference- Epidemiology and Biostatistics: From Molecules to Population**, Banff, AB, Canada 2017

Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB)

- Al Rajabi A, Solbak NM, Xu J-Y, Vena JE, Vaseghi S, Whelan HK, McGregor SE. "Colorectal cancer risk stratification identifies patterns and predictors of adherence to screening recommendations in Alberta's Tomorrow Project participants." Oral presentation

**Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB) Biennial Conference- Epidemiology and Biostatistics: From Molecules to Population**, Banff, AB, Canada 2017

Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB)

- Akawung AK, Haig TR, Al Rajabi A, Vena JE, Whelan HK, Robson PJ, Kopciuk KA. "Impact of the 2008 Alberta Tobacco Reduction Act on secondhand smoke exposure: preliminary findings from a prospective cohort study." Oral presentation

**International Society of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA) Annual Meeting- Advancing Behaviour Change Science**, Victoria, BC, Canada 2017

International Society of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA)

- Solbak NM, Lo Siou G, Paek S, Al Rajabi A, Vena JE, Kirkpatrick SI, Robson PJ. "Evaluating the feasibility of administering a combination of online dietary assessment tools in a cohort of adults in Alberta, Canada." Poster presentation

**Experimental Biology (EB) 2017**, Chicago, IL, USA 2017

American Physiological Society (APS)

- Lopes F, Keita A, Saxena A, Reys JL, Mancini NL, Al Rajabi A, Wang A, Baggio C, Dickey M, van Dalen R, Ahn Y, Rho J, MacNaughton W, Jijon H, Söderholm J, Philpott D, McKay DM. "ER stress antagonizes metabolic stress-induced loss of epithelial barrier function to commensal bacteria via xenophagy." Poster presentation
- Abstract published in: The FASEB Journal 2017 31:1\_supplement, 1043.4-1043.4

**Experimental Biology (EB) 2017**, Chicago, IL, USA 2017

American Society of Nutrition (ASN)

- Ellis JL, Fu X, Al Rajabi A, Naumova EN, Grusak MA, Saltzman E, Booth SL. "Absorption and excretion of vitamin K varies by age and triglycerides: a metabolic study in older and younger adults using deuterium-labeled collard greens." Oral and Poster presentations
- Abstract published in: The FASEB Journal 2017 31:1\_supplement, 148.3-148.3

**Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW) 2017**, Banff, AB, Canada 2017

Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG)

- Lopes F, Reyes JL, Mancini NL, Al Rajabi A, Saxena A, Wang A, van Dalen R, MacNaughton WK, Jijon H, Söderholm JD, Philpott DJ, McKay DM. "The ATF6 arm of ER stress antagonizes metabolic stress-induced decreases in epithelial barrier function to commensal bacteria by promoting xenophagy." Poster presentation
- Abstract published in: Journal of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology. 2018, 1(suppl\_1): 503–504. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcag/gwy008.291>

**The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mazankowski Cardiac Sciences Research Day**, Edmonton, AB, Canada 2017

Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, University of Alberta

- Zia Y, Al Rajabi A, Leonard KA, Mi S, Zhao Y-Y, Field CJ, Curtis JM, van der Veen J, Jacobs RL. "Hepatic PEMT expression, but not dietary choline, reverses the protection against atherosclerosis in Pemt<sup>-/-</sup>/Ldlr<sup>-/-</sup> mice." Oral presentation

**Experimental Biology (EB) 2016**, San Diego, CA, USA 2016



American Society of Nutrition (ASN)

- Jacobs RL, Zia Y, Al Rajabi A, Mi S, Leonard KA, Zhao Y-Y, Field CJ, Curtis JM, van der Veen J. "Ldlr<sup>-/-</sup> mice lacking PEMT have elevated plasma Trimethylamine-Oxide levels but are protected from high fat diet-induced atherosclerosis." Oral presentation
- Abstract published in: The FASEB Journal 2016 30:1\_supplement, 293.7-293.7

**Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW) 2016**, Montreal, QC

2016

Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG)

- Al Rajabi A, Wang A, McKay DM. "The gut microbiota-dependent metabolite, TMAO, protects against colitis: a role for the inhibition of apoptosis?" Oral presentation
- Abstract published in: "Program and Abstracts from the Canadian Digestive Diseases Week™ 2016." Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. 2016; 2016: 4792898. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2016/4792898>. PMID: 27563641

**Research Topics in Gastrointestinal Diseases**, Montreal, QC, Canada

2016

Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG)

- Al Rajabi A. "The gut microbiota-dependent dietary metabolite, TMAO, protects against colitis development via inducing autophagy and reducing ER stress-induced apoptosis." Oral presentation

**Kananaskis Inflammation Workshop (KIW)**, Kananaskis, AB, Canada

2016

The Gastrointestinal Research Group/ The Inflammation Research Network, University of Calgary

- Al Rajabi A. "The gut microbiome-dependent dietary metabolite, TMAO, protects against colitis: a role for apoptosis inhibition?" Oral presentation

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Davison Awards Research Day**, Calgary, AB, Canada

2015

The Gastrointestinal Research Group/ The Inflammation Research Network, University of Calgary

- Al Rajabi A. "The role of ER stress-induced apoptosis in colitis." Oral presentation

**The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Mazankowski Cardiac Sciences Research Day**, Edmonton, AB, Canada

2015

Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, University of Alberta

- Zia Y, Al Rajabi A, Leonard KA, Field CJ, Mi S, Zhao Y-Y, Curtis JM, Jacobs RL. "Ldlr<sup>-/-</sup> mice lacking PEMT have elevated TMAO levels but are protected from high fat diet-induced atherosclerosis." Poster presentation

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Mazankowski Cardiac Sciences Research Day**, Edmonton, AB, Canada

2014

Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, University of Alberta

- Al Rajabi A, Coursen N, Leonard KA, Kelly SE, Vine DF, Proctor SD, Jacobs RL. "Choline status modulates the development of atherosclerosis in LDL receptor knockout mice." Poster presentation

**Experimental Biology (EB) 2014**, San Diego, CA, USA

2014

American Society of Nutrition (ASN)

- Al Rajabi A, Leonard KA, Kelly SE, Vine DF, Proctor SD, Jacobs RL. "Choline status modulates the development of atherosclerosis in LDL receptor knockout mice." Oral and Poster presentations
- Abstract published in: The FASEB Journal 2014 28:1\_supplement, 272.7-272.7
- Finalists in the American Society of Nutrition (ASN) Aging and Chronic Disease Research Interest Section (RIS) Postdoctoral poster competition

**The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Lipoprotein Conference (CLC)**, Mont Tremblant, QC, Canada

2013

- Al Rajabi A, Coursen N, Leonard KA, Kelly SE, Vine DF, Proctor SD, Jacobs RL. "Choline status modulates the development of atherosclerosis in Ldlr<sup>-/-</sup> mice." Oral presentation

**Alberta Diabetes Institute Research Day**, Edmonton, AB, Canada

2013

Alberta Diabetes Institute, University of Alberta

- Al Rajabi A, Coursen N, Leonard KA, Kelly S, Vine D, Proctor S, Jacobs RL. "Choline status modulates the development of atherosclerosis in Ldlr<sup>-/-</sup> mice." Poster presentation

**The 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Homocysteine and One Carbon Metabolism**, Dublin, Ireland

2013

Trinity College, Dublin

- Castro GSF, Al Rajabi A, da Silva R, Nelson R, Kelly SE, Vine DF, Proctor SD, Vannucchi H, Jacobs RL. "PEMT deficiency increases dietary choline requirements in Ldlr <sup>-/-</sup> mice." Poster presentation
- Abstract published in: "Abstracts of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Homocysteine and One-Carbon Metabolism - HCY2013. Dublin, Ireland. September 8-12, 2013." Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease. 2013, 36(s1): 1-51. DOI: 10.1007/s10545-013-9631-1. PMID: 23881469

**The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Mazankowski Cardiac Sciences Research Day**, Edmonton, AB, Canada 2013

Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, University of Alberta

- Al Rajabi A, Coursen N, Leonard KA, Kelly SE, Vine DF, Proctor SD, Jacobs RL. "Choline status modulates atherosclerosis development in Ldlr <sup>-/-</sup> mice." Poster presentation

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student/Trainee Poster Competition**, Edmonton, AB, Canada 2013

Alberta Institute for Human Nutrition, University of Alberta

- Castro GSF, Al Rajabi A, da Silva R, Nelson R, Kelly SE, Vine DF, Proctor SD, Jacobs RL. "Deleting PEMT increases dietary choline requirements in Ldlr <sup>-/-</sup> mice." Poster presentation

**Experimental Biology (EB) 2011**, Washington, DC, USA 2011

American Society of Nutrition (ASN)

- Al Rajabi A, Peterson JW, Booth SL, Choi SW, Suttie J, Fu X. "Menadione is an intermediate in the Phylloquinone to Menaquinone-4 conversion." Oral and Poster presentations
- Abstract published in: The FASEB Journal 2011 25:1\_supplement, 218.6-218.6

**Jean Mayer USDA HNRCA Seminar Series**, Boston, MA, USA 2010

Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University

- Al Rajabi A. "The enzymatic conversion of Phylloquinone to MK-4." Oral presentation

**Second Annual Gerald J. Friedman Fellows Symposium**, New York City, NY, USA 2009

The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman NY Foundation for Medical Research

- Al Rajabi A, Choi SW, Peterson JW, Booth SL. "Measurement of Menadione in urine by HPLC." Poster presentation

**Experimental Biology (EB) 2009**, New Orleans, LA, USA 2009

American Society of Nutrition (ASN)

- Al Rajabi A, Choi SW, Peterson JW, Booth SL. "Measurement of Menadione in urine by HPLC." Poster presentation
- Abstract published in: The FASEB Journal 2009 23:1\_supplement, 566.4-566.4

**First Annual Gerald J. Friedman Fellows Symposium**, New York City, NY, USA 2008

The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman NY Foundation for Medical Research

- Al Rajabi A. "Novel biological roles for vitamin K." Oral presentation

**Awards, Fellowships, and Recognitions**

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**Eyes High Postdoctoral Fellowship** Nov 2014

- Recruited by the University of Calgary as part of the Eyes High strategic plan that envisions the University of Calgary as a global intellectual hub and one of Canada's top five research universities

**Media Alert: The Journal of Nutrition** March 2014

- Highlighting my first-author manuscript: Al Rajabi A *et al.* Journal of Nutrition. 2014; 144(3): 252-257

**Senior Poster Honourable Mention Award** Sep 2013

- Alberta Diabetes Institute Research Day
- Alberta Diabetes Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta

**Young Investigators Award** Sep 2013

- The 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Homocysteine and One-Carbon Metabolism

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student/Trainee Poster Competition** Jan 2013

- Alberta Institute for Human Nutrition

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the competition

**Department of Nutrition Science Travel Award**

April 2011

- Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University

**The Gerald J. Friedman Nutrition and Citizenship Fellowship**

2007- 2010

- Given to most meritorious doctoral students entering Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University
- Full-ride scholarship that covered tuition, fees and all living expenses

**United States Agency for International Development Presidential Scholarship Program (USAID PSP)**

- Received during MSc studies at Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University
- Full-ride scholarship that covered tuition, fees and all living expenses

2005-2007

**Professional Affiliations**

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- Palestinian Pharmaceutical Association, Palestine 2000- Present
- American Society for Nutrition (ASN) 2007- Present
- Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) 2014- Present