

Professional Profile

- Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) with extensive experience in cancer biology actively studying mechanisms of resistance to cancer drugs and tumorigenesis in upper gastrointestinal cancers
- Experience with identification of novel biomarkers and therapeutic targets based on gene amplification and differential expression in primary tumors (molecular genetics, genomics, and proteomics)
- Preclinical functional validation of cancer targets *in vitro* and *in vivo* using biochemical and cell based assays, and mouse disease models
- Strong understanding of canonical and non-canonical signal transduction pathways in cancer biology as indicated by a strong publication track record
- Teaching, training and supervising post-doctoral fellows, research assistants, and graduate students in cancer research
- Editorial board member and reviewer for several scientific journals, and a regular reviewer for VA Oncology-B Study Section, American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), and CIMG study section (NIH)
- Currently funded by NCI/NIH (1RO1CA193219, 3/01/2016 – 2/28/2022)

Positions and Employment

2016 (May)-Present	Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Department of Surgery, Surgical Oncology Research, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee
2008 – 2016 (May)	Research Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Surgical Oncology Research, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee
2005 – 2008	Research Instructor, Department of Surgery, Surgical Oncology Research, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee
2003 – 2005	Research Associate, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia
2000 – 2003	Research Associate, Biotechnology Research Institute, National Research Council, Montreal, Quebec
1989 – 1995	Laboratory Instructor, Department of Microbiology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

Education and Training

PhD in Microbiology (1995):	University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada
Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Molecular Microbiology (1988):	University of Reading, Reading, UK
2003 – 2005	Research Associate, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia
1998 – 2000	Post-doctoral Fellow, Biotechnology Research Institute, Montreal
1995 – 1998	Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Pathology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

Personal Statement

I am currently an Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) at the Department of Surgery and a member of Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center. I have a long-standing track record in cancer biology, which is documented in several strong publications in this area. My research interests involve studies on tumorigenesis and resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs in human upper gastrointestinal adenocarcinomas. I have been actively collaborating with members of the GI cancer group at Vanderbilt University and serve as a co-investigator in several NIH-funded projects. I have published several articles in high impact peer reviewed journals in the field of cancer biology. My research focuses on molecular mechanisms of chemotherapeutic resistance and targeted therapy approaches in upper GI cancers. My current research involves the role of AXL receptor tyrosine kinase in Barrett's carcinogenesis, which is funded by NCI/NIH (RO1, 2016). This research attempts to gain insight into how AXL through regulation of c-ABL promotes cancer cell survival and invasion, hallmarks of tumorigenesis. This study also investigates the effects of p53 loss of function through deletion or mutation on AXL expression in the context of reflux-induced DNA damage and oxidative stress. I have been an

editorial board member for several journals and a regular reviewer for VA Onc-B study section and American Gastroenterological Association (AGA). I have also mentored and supervised several postdoctoral fellows and students in the field of cancer biology in the past many years.

Memberships and Affiliations

American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) (2005 - Present)
American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) (2006 - Present)
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) (2018 - Present)

Editorial Board Member

2007 - Present PLoS ONE
2010 - Present Advances in Breast Cancer Research (ABCR)
2011 - Present Cancer Growth and Metastasis
2012 - Present Dataset Papers in Biology
2012 - Present Public Health Frontier
2012 - Present Journal of Cancer Research
2016 - Present Upper Gastro-Intestinal Tract-Clinics in Oncology

Reviewer (Study Sections)

2016 - Present: VA Merit Award (Oncology-B Study Section, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)
2017 - Present: AGA Abstract Reviewer (American Gastroenterological Association)
2019 - Present: Reviewer in Clinical Integrative and Molecular Gastroenterology (CIMG) study section (NIH)
2019 - Present: Reviewer in R13 special emphasis panel review (NCI).
2019 - Present: Member in Institutional Biosafety Committee and Research Safety Subcommittee (VA IBC/RSS), The Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (VA TVHS)
2020 - Present: Moderator of a Research Forum at Digestive Disease Week (DDW) – Basic Mechanisms of Colitis-Associated Cancer.

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

2010 - Present Digestive Diseases and Sciences
2008 - Present PLoS ONE
2010 - Present American Journal of Pathology
2011 - Present Molecular Cancer Therapeutics
2010 - Present Breast Cancer: Basic and Clinical Research
2011 - Present Cancer Growth and Metastasis
2012 - Present Cell Biology Insights
2012 - Present Oncogene
2012 - Present Clinical Cancer Research
2013 - Present Expert Opinion on Drugs Metabolism & Toxicology
2012 - Present British Journal of Cancer
2016 - Present Digestive Disease Week
2016 - Present Annals of Carcinogenesis
2016 - Present Clinical Cancer Research
2016 - Present Gastroenterology
2018 - Present Journal of Clinical Investigation

Honors and Awards

Post-doctoral Fellowship (NSERC, Canada) (1998 – 2000)
Post-doctoral Fellowship (Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Canada) (1997 – 1998)
Post-graduate Fellowship (University of Manitoba, Canada) (1991 – 1993)

Ongoing Research Support

1R01CA193219-01A1 (PI: Belkhiri)

3/01/2016 – 2/28/2022

NIH/NCI

The role of AXL-ABL axis in Barrett's carcinogenesis

This project aims to gain insight into how AXL through regulation of c-ABL promotes cancer cell survival and invasion, hallmarks of tumorigenesis.

1R01CA193219-01A1 Supplement

(PI: Belkhiri)

07/01/2018–3/01/2021

NIH/NCI

Project title: Studies of tumor microenvironment regulation of Gas6/AXL signaling in vascular smooth muscle cells and angiogenesis in esophageal adenocarcinoma

Training, Teaching and Mentorship Activities

Students, Research Instructors, Research Assistants, and Post-Doctoral Fellows:

- Patricia MacChesney, Ph.D. (2004 - 2005): Fellow, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Virginia
- Nataliya Pidkovka, Ph.D. (2004): Fellow, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Virginia
- Nazif Makani (2004 - 2005): Research Assistant, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Virginia
- Natalie Koon (2003 - 2004): Research Assistant, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Virginia
- Adam Johnson (2003 - 2004): 4th year student, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia
- Sohaib Afridi (2004): 2nd year student, School of Medicine, St. George's University
- Altaf Dar, Ph.D. (2005 - 2008): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Mohamed Razvi, Ph.D. (2005 - 2008): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Dunfa Peng, Ph.D. (2005 - 2009): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Anna Vilgelm, Ph.D. (2005 - 2010): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Jinxiong Wei, Ph.D. (2005 - 2010): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Bhavatarini Vangamudi (2008 - 2010): Research Assistant, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Mohammed Soutto (2010 - 2011): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Shoumin Zhu (2009 - 2017): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Rama Saad (2012 - 2014): Visiting Scholar, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University
- Andreia Bates (2018 - Present): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Jun Hong (2010 - Present): Research Instructor, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Selma Maacha (2016 - 2018): Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Fatma Abid (2020 – Present): RAI, Surgical Oncology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Selected Peer-Reviewed Papers Related to Cancer Biology (*, denotes corresponding author)

1. **Belkhiri A**, Lytvyn V, Guilbault C, Bourget L, Massie B, Nägler DK, Ménard R. **2002**. A noninvasive cell-based assay for monitoring proteolytic activity within a specific subcellular compartment. **Analytical Biochemistry** **306(2):237-246**. (PMID: 12123661)
2. Tomkova K, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W, Zaika A. **2004**. P73 isoforms can induce T-Cell Factor-Dependent Transcription in Gastrointestinal Cells. **Cancer Research** **64:6390-6393**. (PMID: 15374945)
3. **Belkhiri A**, Zaika A, Pidkovka N, Knuutila S, Moskaluk C, El-Rifai W. **2005**. DARPP-32: a novel Antiapoptotic Gene in Upper Gastrointestinal carcinomas. **Cancer Research** **65(15):6583-6592**. (PMID: 16061638)

4. Makani N, **Belkhiri A**, Moskaluk C, Knuutila S, Dar A, El-Rifai W. **2006**. Molecular Dissection of 17q12 amplicon in Upper Gastrointestinal Adenocarcinomas. **Molecular Cancer Research 4(7): 449-455**. (PMID: 16849520)
5. Dar AA, **Belkhiri A**, Ecsedy J, Zaika A, El-Rifai W. **2008**. Aurora kinase A inhibition leads to p73-dependent apoptosis in p53-deficient cancer cells. **Cancer Research 68(21):8998-9004**. (PMID: 18974145)
6. **Belkhiri A**, Dar AA, Zaika A, Kelly M, El-Rifai W. **2008**. t-DARPP promotes cancer cell survival by upregulation of Bcl2 through Akt-dependent mechanism. **Cancer Research 68:395-403**. (PMID: 18199533)
7. **Belkhiri A**, Dar AA, Peng D, Razvi MH, Rinehart C, Arteaga CL, El-Rifai W. **2008**. Expression of t-DARPP Mediates Trastuzumab Resistance in Breast Cancer Cells. **Clinical Cancer Research 14(14): 4564-4571**. (PMID: 18579663)
8. Woon L, **Belkhiri A**, Lockhart C, merchant N, Glaeser H, Harris EI, Washington MK, Zaika A, Kim RB, El-Rifai W. **2008**. Overexpression of OATP1B3 is associated with apoptosis resistance in colon cancer. **Cancer Research 68(24):10315-10323**. (PMID: 19074900)
9. Dar AA, Zaika A, Piazuolo MB, Correa P, Koyama T, **Belkhiri A**, Washington K, Castells A, Pera M, El-Rifai W. **2008**. Frequent overexpression of Aurora Kinase A in upper gastrointestinal adenocarcinomas correlates with potent antiapoptotic functions. **Cancer 112:1688-1698**. (PMID: 18311783)
10. Dar AA, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2009**. The Aurora Kinase A regulates GSK-3 β in gastric cancer cells. **Oncogene 28(6):866-875**. (PMID: 19060929)
11. Mukherjee K, Peng D, Brifkani Z, **Belkhiri A**, Pera M, Koyama T, Koehler EAS, Revetta FL, Washington MK, El-Rifai W. **2010**. Dopamine and cAMP regulated phosphoprotein MW 32 kDa is overexpressed in early stages of gastric tumorigenesis. **Surgery 148:354-363**. (PMID: 20580047)
12. Vangamudi B, Peng DF, Cai Q, El-Rifai W, Zheng W, ***Belkhiri A**. **2010**. t-DARPP regulates phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase-dependent cell growth in breast cancer. **Molecular Cancer Sep 13; 9:240**. (PMID: 20836878)
13. Vangamudi B, Zhu S, Soutto M, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2011**. Regulation of β -catenin by t-DARPP in upper gastrointestinal cancer cells. **Molecular Cancer Mar 29; 10:32**. (PMID: 21447180)
14. Soutto M, **Belkhiri A**, Piazuolo MB, Schneider BG, Peng D, Jiang A, Washington MK, Kokoye Y, Crowe SE, Zaika A, Correa P, Peek RM jr., El-Rifai W. **2011**. Loss of TFF1 is associated with activation of NF- κ B-mediated inflammation and gastric neoplasia in mice and humans. **Journal of Clinical Investigation 121(5):1753-1767**. (PMID: 21490402)
15. Zhu S, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2011**. DARPP-32 increases interaction between epidermal growth factor receptor and ERBB3 to promote tumor resistance to gefitinib. **Gastroenterology 141(5):1738-1748**. (PMID: 21741919)
16. ***Belkhiri A**, Zhu S, Chen Z, Soutto M, El-Rifai W. **2012**. Resistance to TRAIL is mediated by DARPP-32 in gastric cancer. **Clinical Cancer Research 18(14):3889-900**. (PMID: 22589394)

17. Peng D, **Belkhiri A**, HU TL, Chaturvedi R, Asim M, Wilson KT, Zaika A, El-Rifai W. **2012**. Glutathione peroxidase 7 protects against oxidative DNA damage in esophageal cells. *Gut* 61(9):1250-1260. (PMID: 22157330)
18. Hong J, Katsha AM, Lu P, Shyr Y, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2012**. Regulation of ERBB2 receptor by t-DARPP mediates trastuzumab resistance in human esophageal adenocarcinoma. *Cancer Research* 72(17):4504-4514. (PMID: 22745369)
19. Sehdev V, Peng D, Soutto M, Washington MK, Revetta F, Ecsedy J, Zaika A, Rau TT, Schneider-Stock R, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2012**. The aurora kinase A inhibitor MLN8237 enhances cisplatin-induced cell death in esophageal adenocarcinoma cells. *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* 11(3):763-774. (PMID: 22302096)
20. Zhu S, Hong J, Tripathi MK, Sehdev V, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2013**. Regulation of CXCR4-mediated invasion by DARPP-32 in gastric cancer cells. *Molecular Cancer Research* 11(1):86-94. (PMID: 23160836)
21. Sehdev V, Katsha A, Ecsedy J, Zaika A, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2013**. The combination of alisertib, and investigational Aurora kinase A inhibitor, and docetaxel promotes cell death and reduces tumor growth in pre-clinical cell models in upper gastrointestinal adenocarcinomas. *Cancer* 119(4):904-914. (PMID: 22972611)
22. Katsha A, Soutto M, Sehdev V, Peng D, Washington MK, Piazuolo MB, Tantawy MN, Manning HC, Lu P, Shyr Y, Ecsedy J, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2013**. Aurora kinase A promotes inflammation and tumorigenesis in mice and human gastric neoplasia. *Gastroenterology* 145(6):1312-22. (PMID: 23993973)
23. Hong J, Peng D, Chen Z, Sehdev V, **Belkhiri A**. **2013**. ABL regulation by AXL promotes cisplatin resistance in esophageal cancer. *Cancer Research* 73(1):331-40. (PMID: 23117882)
24. Hong J, **Belkhiri A**. **2013**. AXL mediates TRAIL resistance in human esophageal adenocarcinoma. *Neoplasia* 15(3):296-304. (PMID: 23479507)
25. Saad R, Chen Z, Zhu S, Jia P, Zhao Z, Washington MK, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2013**. Deciphering the unique microRNA signature in human esophageal adenocarcinoma. *PLoS One* 8(5):e64463. (PMID: 23724052)
26. Sehdev V, Katsha A, Arras J, Peng D, Soutto M, Ecsedy J, Zaika A, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2014**. HDM2 regulation by AURKA promotes cell survival in gastric cancer. *Clinical Cancer Research* 20(1):76-86, **2014**. (PMID: 24240108)
27. Peng D, Hu T, Soutto M, **Belkhiri A**, Zaika A, El-Rifai W. **2014**. Glutathione peroxidase 7 has potential tumor suppressor functions that are silenced by location-specific methylation in oesophageal adenocarcinoma. *Gut* 63(4):540-51. (PMID: 23580780)
28. Peng DF, Hu TL, Soutto M, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2014**. Loss of glutathione peroxidase 7 promotes TNF- α -induced NF- κ B activation in Barrett's carcinogenesis. *Carcinogenesis* 35(7):1620-8. (PMID: 24692067)
29. Peng DF, Hu TL, Soutto M, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2014**. Glutathione peroxidase 7 suppresses bile salt-induced expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines in Barrett's carcinogenesis. *Journal of Cancer* 5(7):510-7. (PMID: 24963355)

30. Soutto M, Chen Z, Saleh MA, Katsha A, Zhu S, Zaika A, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2014**. TFF1 activates p53 through down-regulation of miR-504 in gastric cancer. **Oncotarget** **5(14):5663-73**. (PMID: 25015107)
31. Soutto M, Peng D, Katsha A, Chen Z, Piazuolo MB, Washington MK, **Belkhiri A**, Correa P, El-Rifai W. **2014**. Activation of β -catenin signalling by TFF1 loss promotes cell proliferation and gastric tumorigenesis. **Gut** doi: **10.1136/gutjnl-2014-307191**. [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 25107557)
32. Katsha A, Arras J, Soutto M, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2014**. AURKA regulates JAK2-STAT3 activity in human gastric and esophageal cancers. **Molecular Oncology** doi: **10.1016/j.molonc.2014.05.012**. [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 24953013)
33. ***Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2014**. 5-Methylecytosine hydroxylation-mediated LINE-1 hypomethylation: a novel mechanism of proto-oncogenes activation in colorectal cancer? **Gut** **63(4): 538-9**. (PMID: 23812322)
34. ***Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2015**. Advances in targeted therapies and new promising targets in esophageal cancer. **Oncotarget** **6(3):1348-58**. (PMID: 25593196)
35. Chen Z, Zhu S, Hong J, Soutto M, Peng D, **Belkhiri A**, Xu Z, El-Rifai W. **2015**. Gastric tumor-derived ANGPT2 regulation by DARPP-32 promotes angiogenesis. **Gut: gutjnl-2014-308416**. doi: **10.1136/gutjnl-2014-308416**. [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 25779598)
36. Soutto M, Romero-Gallo J, Krishna U, Piazuolo MB, Washington MK, **Belkhiri A**, Peek RM Jr, El-Rifai W. **2015**. Loss of TFF1 promotes Helicobacter pylori-induced β -catenin activation and gastric tumorigenesis. **Oncotarget: PMID: 25980439** [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 25980439)
37. Katsha A, **Belkhiri A**, Goff L, El-Rifai W. **2015**. Aurora kinase A in gastrointestinal cancers: time to target. **Molecular Cancer: 14:106**. doi: **10.1186/s12943-015-0375-4**. (PMID: 25987188)
38. Soutto M, Chen Z, Katsha AM, Romero-Gallo J, Krishna US, Piazuolo MB, Washington MK, Peek RM Jr, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2015**. Trefoil factor 1 expression suppresses Helicobacter pylori-induced inflammation in gastric carcinogenesis. **Cancer: doi: 10.1002/cncr.29644**. [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 26372254)
39. **Belkhiri A**, Zhu S, El-Rifai W. **2016**. DARPP-32: from neurotransmission to cancer. **Oncotarget: doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.7268**. [Epub ahead of print] Review. (PMID: 26872373)
40. Hong J, Chen Z, Peng D, Zaika A, Revetta F, Washington MK, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2016**. APE1-mediated DNA damage repair provides survival advantage for esophageal adenocarcinoma cells in response to acidic bile salts. **Oncotarget: doi: 10.18632/Oncotarget.7696**. [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 26934647)
41. Katsha A, Wang L, Arras J, Omar OM, Ecsedy JA, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2017**. Activation of EIF4E by Aurora kinase A depicts a novel druggable axis in everolimus resistant cancer cells. **Clinical Cancer Research: doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-16-2141**. [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 28073841)
42. Wang L, Arras J, Katsha A, Hamdan S, **Belkhiri A**, Ecsedy J, El-Rifai W. **2017**. Cisplatin-resistant cancer cells are sensitive to Aurora Kinase A inhibition by alisertib. **Mol Oncol. doi: 10.1002/1878-0261.12066**. [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 28417568)

43. Zhu S, Soutto M, Chen Z, Peng D, Romero-Gallo J, Krishna US, **Belkhiri A**, Washington MK, Peek R, El-Rifai W. **2017**. *Helicobacter pylori*-induced cell death is counteracted by NF- κ B-mediated transcription of DARPP-32. **Gut**. **66(5):761-762**. doi: **10.1136/gutjnl-2016-312141**. (PMID: 27590997)
44. Soutto M, Saleh M, Arredouani MS, Piazuolo B, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W. **2017**. Loss of Tff1 Promotes Pro-Inflammatory Phenotype with Increase in the Levels of ROR γ t+ T Lymphocytes and Il-17 in Mouse Gastric Neoplasia. **J Cancer**. **8(13):2424-2435**. doi: **10.7150/jca** (PMID: 28900479)
45. Zhu S, Chen Z, Wang L, Peng D, **Belkhiri A**, Lockhart AC, El-Rifai W. **2018**. A Combination of SAHA and Quinacrine Is Effective in Inducing Cancer Cell Death in Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers. **Clin Cancer Res**. **24(8):1905-1916**. doi: **10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-17-1716**. (PMID: 29386219)
46. Maacha S, Hong J, von Lersner A, Zijlstra A, ***Belkhiri A**. **2018**. AXL Mediates Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Cell Invasion through Regulation of Extracellular Acidification and Lysosome Trafficking. **Neoplasia**. **20(10):1008-1022**. doi: **10.1016/j.neo.2018.08.005**. (PMID: 30189359)
47. Hong J, Maacha S, ***Belkhiri A**. **2018**. Transcriptional upregulation of c-MYC by AXL confers epirubicin resistance in esophageal adenocarcinoma. **Mol Oncol**. doi: **10.1002/1878-0261.12395**. [Epub ahead of print] (PMID: 30353671)

List of Published Work in My Bibliography:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=belkhiri%2C+Abbes>

Recent Abstracts for Posters and Oral Presentations at International Conferences

1. **Belkhiri A**, Dar A, Zaika AI, Ecsedy J, El-Rifai W: Aurora Kinase a Regulates p73-Dependent Apoptosis in Gastrointestinal Cancers. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 30 - June 3, 2009; Chicago, IL. Abstract T2012**
2. **Belkhiri A**, Dar A, Soutto M, Piazuolo MB, Correa P, Washington K, El-Rifai W: The Aurora Kinase a Regulates GSK-3 β / β -Catenin/Tcf Complex Signaling in Gastric Cancer Cells. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 30 - June 3, 2009; Chicago, IL. Abstract 1090**
3. **Belkhiri A**, Arteaga CL, El-Rifai W: Expression of t-DARPP confers resistance to trastuzumab in breast cancer cells. In: **Program and abstracts of American Association for Cancer Research 100th Annual Meeting: Proceedings; Apr 18-22, 2009; Denver, CO. Philadelphia (PA): AACR; 2009 Abstract nr 4371**
4. Dar A, **Belkhiri A**, Piazuolo MB, Zaika AI, Castells A, Pera M, Washington K, El-Rifai W: Effect of aurora kinase A on drug-induced apoptosis and regulation of p53 in an Akt-dependent mechanism. In: **Program and abstracts of Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium 2009; January 15-17, 2009; San Francisco, CA. Abstract 33**
5. Vangamudi B, Mukherjee K, **Belkhiri A**, Zaika A, El-Rifai W: t-DARPP regulates GSK3 β and β -Catenin/Tcf Signaling. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 2-5, 2010; New Orleans, Louisiana. Abstract W1752**.

6. Zhu S, **Belkhiri A**, Zaika A, El-Rifai W: DARPP-32 Mediates Activation of PI3K Signaling and Resistance to Gefitinib in Gastric Cancer. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 7-10, 2011; Chicago, IL. Abstract Mo1937.**
7. **Belkhiri A**, Mehio SM, Zhu S, El-Rifai W: DARPP-32 Promotes TRAIL Resistance Through Regulation of BCL-XL in Gastric Cancer Cells. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 7-10, 2011; Chicago, IL. Abstract Mo1952.**
8. Soutto M, **Belkhiri A**, Piazuelo MB, Correa P, Peek R, El-Rifai W: TFF1 Modulates NF- κ B Signaling and the Development of Gastric Neoplasms. In: **Programs and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 7-10, 2011; Chicago, IL. Abstract 951.**
9. Peng D, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W: Regulation of Oxidative DNA Damage by Glutathione Peroxidase 7 in Barrett's Tumorigenesis. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 7-10, 2011; Chicago, IL. Abstract 571.**
10. **Belkhiri A**, Zhu S, Chen Z, Hong J, Soutto M, El-Rifai W: Resistance to TRAIL is Mediated by DARPP-32 Through Regulation of NF- κ B/FLIP(S) Signaling in Gastric Cancer. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Week; May 19-22, 2012; San Diego, CA. Abstract Sa1788.**
11. Sehdev V, Katsha A, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai A: Aurka Regulates Hdm2 E3-Ubiquitin Ligase in Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Cells. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Week; May 19-22, 2012; San Diego, CA. Abstract 255.**
12. Chen Z, Shoum Zhu, Jun Hong, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W: DARPP-32 Proteins up-Regulate Angpt2 and Enhance Angiogenesis in Gastric Cancer. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Week; May 19-22, 2012; San Diego, CA. Abstract Mo1551.**
13. Hong J, Zhu S, Hu T, **Belkhiri A**, El-Rifai W: Truncated DARPP-32 Protects Against Herceptin-Induced Cell Death via Regulation of ERBB2 and AKT Signaling in Esophageal Adenocarcinoma. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Week; May 19-22, 2012; San Diego, CA. Abstract Su1860.**
14. Jun Hong, DunFa Peng, Wael El-Rifai, **Abbes Belkhiri**: Regulation of Death-Inducing Signaling Complex by AXL Mediates TRAIL Resistance in Esophageal Adenocarcinoma. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 18-21, 2013; Orlando, FL. Abstract 824**
15. Ahmed M. Katsha, Vikas Sehdev, Mohammed Soutto, Alexander Zaika, Kay Washington, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Wael El-Rifai: Aurora Kinase A regulates inflammation and induces NF- κ B pathway activation in gastric cancer. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 18-21, 2013; Orlando, FL. Abstract 871**
16. Mohammed Soutto, Ahmed M. Katsha, DunFa Peng, M. Blanca Piazuelo, Pelayo Correa, Alexander Zaika, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Wael El-Rifai: TFF1 silencing promotes cell proliferation through regulating the AKT-beta-catenin signaling in gastric tumorigenesis. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 18-21, 2013; Orlando, FL. Abstract 873**
17. Vikas Sehdev, Ahmed M. Katsha, DunFa Peng, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Mohammed Soutto, Jeffrey Ecsedy, Alexander Zaika, Wael El-Rifai: AURKA-mediated activation of HDM2 regulates p53 in Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 18-21, 2013; Orlando, FL. Abstract 933**

18. Zheng Chen, Shoum Zhu, Mohammed Soutto, Jun Hong, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Alexander Zaika, Zekuan Xu, Wael El-Rifai: Regulation of STAT3 activity by DARPP-32 in gastric cancer. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 18-21, 2013; Orlando, FL. Abstract Sa1698**
19. Shoumin Zhu, Zheng Chen, Jun Hong, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Wael El-Rifai: Regulation of Splicing of CD44 by DARPP-32 in Gastric Cancers. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 18-21, 2013; Orlando, FL. Abstract Su1994**
20. Jun Hong, DunFa Peng, Zheng Chen, Vikas Sehdev, Wael El-Rifai, **Abbes Belkhiri**: Regulation of c-ABL/p73 Signaling by AXL Promotes Cisplatin Resistance in Esophageal Adenocarcinoma. In: **Program and abstracts of Digestive Disease Week; May 18-21, 2013; Orlando, FL. Abstract Tu1884**
21. Ahmed Katsha, DunFa Peng, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Mohammed Soutto, Jeffrey Ecsedy, Alexander Zaika, Wael El-Rifai: MLN8237 (Alisertib), a Selective Aurora Kinase A inhibitor, enhances Docetaxel-induced cell death in Upper Gastrointestinal Adenocarcinoma cells. **2013 James W Freston Conference; August 16-18, 2013; Chicago, IL.**
22. Zheng Chen, Shoumin Zhu, Mohammed Soutto, Jun Hong, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Alexander Zaika, Wael El-Rifai: Regulation of STAT3 activity by DARPP-32 in gastric cancer. **2014 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium; January 16-18, 2014; San Francisco, CA**
23. Ahmed M. Katsha, Vikas Sehdev, Mohammed Soutto, DunFa Peng, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Wael El-Rifai: Role of aurora kinase A on regulating inflammation and inducing NF- κ B pathway activation in gastric cancer. **2014 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium; January 16-18, 2014; San Francisco, CA**
24. DunFa Peng, Tian-Ling Hu, Rhonda Souza, Alexander Zaika, **Abbes Belkhiri**, Wael El-Rifai: Glutathione peroxidase 7 is a potent suppressor of TNF- α -induced NF- κ B activation in bile salt-induced Barrett's Carcinogenesis. **14th World Congress of the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus. 2014 Vancouver BC. Abstract 856**
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