

Dr. Amel TOUNSI

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Profile and Professional Objective:

Motivated by innovative projects and the will to learn and make a change.

Scientist with Immunology and cellular biology background, experienced in cell therapy development from R&D to clinical phase. Acquired Experience in Business Development and Company Development strategy throughout my career.

Continuous learning and training on the Managerial and Entrepreneurial aspect of the Biotech Industry. (EMBA at Solvay ongoing)

JOB EXPERIENCE

- 01/2021-Now** **INVESTMENT MANAGER at NOSHAQ**
in Liège, Belgium (Scientific input to the Biotechnology Investment department, follow up of Noshag Biotech Invested companies, Noshag representative at Board meeting)
- 09/2017-01/2020** **COO and QC Director at TEXERE Biotech**
in Frasnés-Lez-Gosselies, Belgium (Set up of a robotized and automated production line, Engineers, scientists and consultants Management, prospect and Client interaction, Representation of the company in conferences, Management of 10 subcontractors, set up of a GMP quality management system). Creation and Training of an internal team.
- 08/2014-09/2017** **Development & Project Manager at Masthercell**
in Gosselies, Belgium (Technology transfer , Set up and management of an internal team in accordance with the clients need, Scientific support to projects evaluation, support to Business team in prospects evaluation, Support to sales team during conferences by increasing visibility through presentations and poster sessions, negotiation with clients on service agreements, bringing R&D processes to GMP standards)
Management of up to 3 client projects in parallel. Average timelines 1 to 2 years projects. Average Budget 1 to 6 million euros projects.
Optimisation of internal departments' interaction (QC, Production, QA and Logistics) for the optimisation of the client project integration.
- 03/2014-08/2014** **Project & Business Development Manager at Analis**
in Suarlée, Belgium (Development and commercialisation of a diagnostic instrument for the developing world countries-Set up of budget, timelines and resources for the project kick-off)
- 10/2013-03/2014** **Project Leader at Cardio3 Biosciences**
in Mont-Saint-Guibert, Belgium

(European Project Management (6 international collaborators, 10 million euros project over 3 years, Contract Negotiation, Scientific projects evaluation)
Experience in bringing a cell therapy manufacturing process and analytical methods to the clinical phase 3

01/2011-09/2013 R&D Scientist at Cardio3 Biosciences
in Mont-Saint-Guibert, Belgium (Potency assay development according to GMP standards, viral safety evaluation and assessment, Technology Transfer to CRO, Genomic stability assessment, recruitment and training of Master students)

2009-2011 Post-Doc at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)
in Heidelberg, Germany. (Introduction of Mesenchymal Stem Cells in the laboratory, In vitro and In vivo experimentation, Project management, Team management in an international environment).

SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION

2004 – 2008 PhD in Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
in the field of immunology and genetics
Unité de médecine expérimentale, Université catholique de Louvain
Cytokine group, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research.

2004 – 2006 Postgraduate degree (DEA) in Health Sciences, Biomedical Sciences
Université catholique de Louvain (magna cum laude), Belgium

2001 – 2004 Masters degree in Cellular Biology and Physiology
Majoring in Molecular, Cellular Biology and neurosciences
Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Q4/2019-Q3/2021 EMBA at Solvay Business School
Currently ongoing

Q4/2016 Certification as PMP by PMI
Acquired in January 2017

Q4/2013-Q1/2014 Solvay Accelerated Management Program
Training in Leadership, Accounting, Finance, Project management, Marketing and Strategic Management.

Q4/2012-Q1/2013 IFB Masterclass Biotechnology
Organized by Flanders Bio. The 4th edition of the IFB Biotech / Biopharma Masterclass 2012-2013 focused on the managerial and entrepreneurial skills for young managers in the field of life sciences.

CONFERENCES-ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- Webinar organised by RegMedNet: Case study on large scale manufacturing of stem cell therapies (February 2017)
- Phacilitate Washington: Presentation on the scale out of a cell culture in Bioreactors (January 2016)
- Symposium Raw Materials for the Production of Cell-based Products (EDQM Strasbourg, 04-2013)

TECHNICAL and SOFT SKILLS

- People management, Team motivation, Good listener, flexibility, good presentation skills, Conflict Management, client and solution oriented.
- Management of tech. transfer projects: (internalisation of Bioreactors, preparation of clean room facility for immunotherapy project)
- Molecular biology (RNA extraction, DNA cloning, directed mutagenesis, PCR, real-time quantitative RT-PCR, Microarray)

- Cellular biology (cell culture, FACS analysis, *in vitro* Bioassays, extraction and culture of Mesenchymal Stem Cells)/ Molecular biology (RNA extraction, DNA cloning, directed mutagenesis, PCR, real-time quantitative RT-PCR, Microarray)
- Immunology (ELISA, Western blotting), *in vivo* experiments (DTH, EAE, Tumor models)

LANGUAGE and IT SKILLS

French/Arabic/English Fluent, Very Good working knowledge (written and spoken)

German/Spanish A1 level

IT skills: Word, Excel, Power point (fully literate), MS project (working knowledge), JMP (basics)

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

- NLP Master and coach since December 2019
- Host family for DYADIS dogs (training of dogs for handicapped persons)
- First-aid Volunteer worker at the red cross of Belgium
- Speaker of the Postdoc-network of the DKFZ (German Cancer Research center) (2011-2012)
- VP of the 'Centre internationaux francophones' of the lions club de France (2004-2013)

