



Wafaa has held many service and leadership positions in Iraq

- Director of Alrusafa Health Laboratories section at Alrusafa Directorate 2006–2010
- Director of Central Public Health Laboratories CPHL 2017–2019
- Focal Point for PulseNet Middle East 2017–2019
- Focal Point for Meningitis National Committee 2017–2019
- Focal Point for International Health Regulations Committee 2017–2019
- Member of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) committee 2017–2019
- Director of Biosafety and Biosecurity Building Capacity Project with EMPHNET 2017–2019
- Member of Consultative Committee for Food Safety 2017–2019
- Member of Biosafety and Biosecurity National Committee 2017–2019
- Member of High Committee for Managing Civil Defense Operations-Decision no.8 for 2016 2017–2019
- Member of National Biorisk Management Committee (NBMC) 2017–2019

Dr Wafaa Al-Hussainni

1992 BSc in Chemisty, University of Baghdad, Iraq

2018 PhD in Biochemistry, UC

Since her first year at high school Wafaa has been intrigued by biochemistry—the chemical reactions and pathways that underpin life.

After completing her BSc in 1992 she took on a number of roles, from a biochemist at a kidney transplant unit to the Director of Medical laboratories for the Al-Rusafa district of Baghdad. During this time she also completed a one year clinical laboratory course and was ranked number one in her class.

In 2013 Wafaa made the big move to New Zealand to take up a PhD position, where despite the hardship of being away from her family she felt welcome and at home. She was a highly respected citizen within the School and supported inclusive activities such as the Biological Sciences International Food Festival.

Wafaa was also active in the community, regularly supporting homeless people through the *Who is Hussain?* organisation.

Her PhD research focused on disrupting receptors involved in ovarian cancer cell growth, her findings have been published in the prestigious journal *Cancer Letters*.

On her return to Iraq she took on a two year assignment to the challenging role of Director of Central Public Health Laboratories (CPHL), where she had to be ready to respond, 24 hours a day, to any disease crisis within the country. Alongside this she had extensive communication and collaboration with the likes of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) and numerous other international NGOs.

She then moved to the National Center for Training and Development where she has started new programs in biosafety and biosecurity.

Wafaa is currently a Health Security Partners (HSP) Fellow and has recently taken up a lectureship position at the College of Medicine, Ibn Sina University.

