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National Reference Laboratory
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    NRL_UAE

NRL Pathologists' Profile





The National Reference Laboratory brings to the region world-class services, connecting referring physicians with locally present subspecialized experts to provide highly specialized in-country services.

NRL's scientific team is one of the largest internationally accredited and board certified expert teams in the country. It comprises more than 20 pathologists and clinical scientists providing specialized experience and expertise across a range of disease areas, supported by a team of over 200 medical laboratory scientists. Clients have the ability to obtain advice and support directly from NRL's medical and scientific teams.



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Dr. Basel Altrabulsi

Chief Medical Officer and ICAD
Laboratory Medical Director

Dr. Basel Altrabulsi has been Medical Director of NRL's ICAD Laboratory since 2015. With more than 15 years' of experience in the field, he is certified by the American Board of Pathology, Combined Clinical and Anatomical Pathology.

He graduated from the Medical School of Damascus University, Syria and spent his internship and pathology residency at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. He then completed his Surgical Pathology Fellowship followed by a Clinical Research Training Program at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Dr. Basel's career highlights include multiple leadership positions at American laboratories, such as Chief of Service and Medical Director at the Baylor University Medical Center, Director of the Histology Laboratory at Greater Dallas Pathology, and Medical Director of the Arlington Cancer Center. He also served as a College of American Pathologists (CAP) Inspection Team Leader.

He has authored many research publications and is a member of global organizations such as the International Society of Urological Pathology, International Society of Breast Pathology and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology.



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Dr. Laila AbdelWareth

Deputy CEO and Chief Scientific Officer

Dr. Laila AbdelWareth brings a wealth of experience to NRL, having spent more than 30 years working in the healthcare sector. She is a board certified UAE national pathologist and physician executive with a special interest in capacity building, quality assurance and healthcare administration. Prior to joining NRL, Dr. Laila served as the Chief of Clinical Pathology at the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Laila's major contributions in the UAE laboratory diagnostic field include:

- The introduction of the first national newborn screening program in 1998 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health
- The re-activation of the National Tissue Typing Laboratory to support solid organ and bone marrow transplantation
- The introduction of Total Laboratory Automation
- The introduction of laboratory accreditation by the College of American Pathologists, as well as American Association of Blood Banks in Abu Dhabi

Dr. Laila earned her medical degree from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt and completed her postgraduate training at the University of British Columbia, Canada, in the specialty of Medical Biochemistry and Clinical Pathology. She is an active member in various scientific societies and has several publications to her credit in the field of Laboratory Medicine.



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Dr. Jay Murthy

Technical Director

Dr. Jay Murthy completed his undergraduate and postgraduate degree at the University of Mysore in Karnataka, India, and obtained his PhD in Neurochemistry from Bangalore University, India in 1986. Dr. Jay then completed two post-doctoral fellowships in the US; at the Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University, New York, followed by the Children National Medical Center, George Washington University, Washington DC. In 1996, he received his Board Certification in Clinical Chemistry and in 2000 Dr. Jay completed his Clinical Laboratory Fellowship focused on advanced training in Molecular Diagnostics and Clinical Mass Spectrophotometry at the Department of Laboratory Medicine National Institutes of Health, USA. Dr. Jay is a Diplomat of the American Board of Clinical Chemistry and a Fellow of the Academy of Clinical Chemistry.

Dr. Jay has authored and co-authored many peer-reviewed publications, abstracts and has been active in the American Association for Clinical Chemistry and American College of Pathologists throughout his professional career. He holds many US State licenses including the prestigious New York State Clinical Laboratory Director Licensure.



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Dr. James Donnelly

Technical Director

Dr. James Donnelly is an expert in laboratory operations with experience in academic, corporate, and clinical laboratory settings.

After completing his PhD in Pharmacology from George Washington University, US, Dr. James obtained his MBA in General Management from the University of Ottawa, Canada. He has held various professional and academic posts in the US, Canada and Switzerland; including Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Chemistry, Molecular Virology and Toxicology, at New York University's School of Medicine. Prior to joining NRL, Dr. James served as Scientific Advisory Board Member, Chief Scientific Officer and Vice President of Laboratory Operations at Babson Diagnostics Inc. Austin, Texas, US.

In addition to being a prolific researcher, Dr. James is currently on the editorial boards of Clinical Biochemistry, and Clinica Chimica Acta. He is a fellow of both the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry and the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (USA). He is certified by the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry and holds the New York State Department of Health Certificate of Qualification as Laboratory Director.



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Dr. Andrew Lobashevsky

Technical Director – HLA

Dr. Andrew Lobashevsky joined NRL as technical director of the Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) laboratory at the end of September 2020, having completed a 16-year post as Laboratory Director of the HLA and Transplant Immunology Laboratory and Associate Professor at the Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Methodist Hospital in the US. He is certified by the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics.

Dr. Andrew earned his medical degree and PhD from Moscow Sechenov's Medical Academy in Russia. He completed his post-doctoral training in the US, first in cellular and molecular immunology at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, followed by transplant immunology/histocompatibility training at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, US. Since then, he has held academic and laboratory leadership posts across the US, before moving to the UAE.

He is a member of the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, as well as Mechnikov's Society of Immunology and the Society of Microbiology, both in Russia. He is also the author of numerous journal papers and chapters of books.



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Dr. Osama Aldirbashi

Head of Newborn Screening Services

Dr. Osama Aldirbashi joined NRL in 2020 to establish Newborn Screening and Biochemical Genetics laboratory services. He is a clinical biochemical geneticist certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics and the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists.

During his career, Dr. Osama has led major screening and diagnostic laboratories in North America and the Middle East, where he has been instrumental in refining testing methodologies, devolving new screening algorithms and establishing new screening programs including severe combined immune deficiencies. He was also appointed as faculty at medical schools in the UAE and Canada where he supervised numerous MSc and PhD students as well as trainees, fellows and residents training in his laboratory.

Dr. Osama is appointed adjunct Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Ottawa and as associate medical staff at the Division of Metabolics and Newborn Screening since 2018. His translational research focus is on newborn screening and inborn errors of metabolism. He received numerous grants and published more than 70 articles in prestigious journals including *Pediatrics*, *Hum Gen*, *Genet Med*, *Clin Chem*, *Anal Chem*, *J Inher Metab Dis* and others.

Specialty Area(s)

- Newborn screening
- Inborn errors of metabolism



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Dr. Val Zvereff

Head of the Molecular Diagnostic
Department

Dr. Val Zvereff has more than 30 years of international academic and clinical experience in the areas of molecular genetics and genomics, molecular oncology, clinical and laboratory operations, laboratory development and testing, quality assurance and control, and research analysis and development.

Dr. Val's extensive professional experience in the United States in the area of molecular diagnostics includes tenures as National Discipline Director at LabCorp's Center for Molecular Biology and Pathology, AVP and Director at ZytoGen Global Genetics Institute and Clinical Director of Rare Disorders Department at GeneDx.

Dr. Val is a fellow of American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics as well as being a member of a number of professional organizations including American Society of Human Genetics and American Association for Molecular Pathology.

Specialty Area(s)

- Molecular genetics
- Genomics
- Molecular oncology





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Dr. Shereen Atef

Consultant Clinical Pathologist

Dr. Shereen Atef has more than 20 years' of experience in the field of laboratory medicine and is the author of two books and more than 80 regional and international publications. She is also engaged as a peer reviewer for medical journals such as the *Arab Journal of Gastroenterology* and the *Journal of US-China Medical Science*.

Dr. Shereen completed her Doctorate in Clinical Pathology at Ain Shams University, Egypt in 2004. She joined the Clinical Pathology Department in 1999 and was promoted from Assistant Lecturer to Assistant Professor. She received her Diploma from the American University in Cairo in Total Quality Management for Health Reform (TQM) in 2008. In 2015, Dr. Shereen successfully passed the Certificate Course in Laboratory Quality Management by the University of British Columbia – Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Shereen completed her Doctorate in Clinical Pathology at Ain Shams University, Egypt in 2004.

Specialty Area(s)

- Clinical pathology
- Molecular pathology



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Dr. Suhaila Alameeri

Consultant Anatomic Pathologist

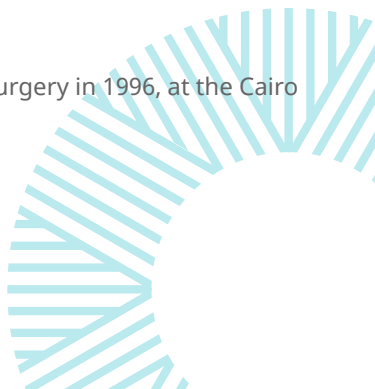
Dr. Suhaila Alameeri has over 15 years' of vast working experience in different roles, including clinical, academic, administrative and advisory responsibilities. Her clinical experience is in general surgical pathology, with a focus and interest in breast and gynecologic pathology. Prior to joining NRL, Dr. Suhaila worked as the Chief of Anatomic Pathology at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC) in Abu Dhabi.

She is an active member of many organizations and committees, including the National Task Force for Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, under the Health Authority Abu Dhabi, since 2009. In addition, she is frequently invited to present at regional educational events.

Dr. Suhaila obtained her Bachelor Degree in Medicine and Surgery in 1996, at the Cairo University, Egypt.

Specialty Area(s)

- Breast pathology
- Gynecological pathology





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Dr. Roberto Dina

Consultant Anatomic Pathologist

Dr. Roberto Dina is an Italian-British consultant pathologist who has a wealth of experience in cytopathology practice, research and education.

He joined NRL in 2019 and is the lead pathologist for gynecological and endocrinological pathology. Dr. Roberto is passionate about educating and training others, he has worked as an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Pathology, Imperial College London since 2000 and also co-founded the popular international training website Eurocytology. He has served on the Cytopathology Examiners Committee and was Chair of the RCPATH Cytology Examining Committee for two years before moving to the UAE. His experience also includes having worked on numerous research projects, served on editorial boards of professional journals, and authored academic articles/publications.

Dr. Roberto earned his medical degree at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in 1978, and then went on to do his postgraduate training at the University of Bologna, Italy, specializing in Anatomic Pathology.

Specialty Area(s)

- Cytopathology
- Endocrine pathology
- Gynecological pathology



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Dr. Nigel Kirkham

Consultant Anatomic Pathologist

Dr. Nigel Kirkham has extensive experience in anatomic pathology, having worked in several teaching hospitals and large district hospitals in the UK. Among the post he held was Director of Pathology at a large multinational clinical research organization based in Scotland. There, he was involved in the global delivery of histopathology services to a variety of Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials.

Dr. Nigel's first priority is delivering high quality and timely clinical and anatomic pathology for optimal patient care. He believes every specimen arriving at a laboratory should be treated as if a patient's life depends on it. He serves as the essential link between the hospital and laboratory, and is keen to interact with clinicians to facilitate the best possible laboratory services.

Dr. Nigel earned his degree in Medicine from the University of Liverpool, UK in 1974. He has a major interest in the pathology of malignant melanoma, which was the subject of his MD thesis

Specialty Area(s)

- Dermatopathology



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Dr. Adnan Alatoom

Consultant Clinical Pathologist

Dr. Adnan Alatoom is a clinical pathologist with expertise in clinical microbiology and infectious disease diagnostics. He is triple board certified by the American board of Medical Specialities (Clinical Pathology and Medical Microbiology) and by the American Academy of Microbiology (American Board of Medical Microbiology [ABMM])

He completed his medical degree at Jordan University of Science and Technology and earned a PhD in Medical Microbiology from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in the US. He completed a residency in Clinical Pathology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas and a fellowship in Clinical Microbiology at the Mayo Clinic's Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Adnan held many academic and leadership posts in the US, including Assistant Professor of Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and Director of Clinical Microbiology, Serology, and Test Referral at the affiliated William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, Dallas, where he was responsible for diagnostic services in bacteriology, virology, mycology, and parasitology. He has published more than 30 publications in professional journals and co-authored a textbook; he was an invited speaker at international and local conferences; and has served as President of the Emirates Society of Clinical Microbiology (ESCM). His scientific interests include Antimicrobial drug resistance, diagnostic and antimicrobial stewardship and rapid diagnostics.

Specialty Area(s)

- Antimicrobial drug resistance
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Rapid diagnostics



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Dr. Asif Quadri

Consultant Anatomic Pathologist

Dr. Asif Quadri is a Consultant Anatomical and Cyto-pathologist, who joined NRL, after working as Consultant and Chief of Anatomical Pathology at Tawam Hospital, the regional Cancer Centre in UAE for seven years. Prior to that he worked as a Consultant Anatomical Pathologist for five years at City Hospital, Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, UK. Dr. Asif's special interests include biomarkers, gynecological pathology, breast pathology, lung tumors, genitourinary pathology, and soft tissue tumors.

After completing his medical degree at the College of Medicine, University of Baghdad in Iraq, Dr. Asif pursued his pathology residency training in the UK. He was awarded a Certificate of Completion in Specialist Training (CCT) for Anatomical Pathology and Cytopathology from the Postgraduate Medical and Education Training Board and General Medical Council in the UK and a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, London . His interest in Medical Education earned him a Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education from University of Staffordshire, also in the UK.

Dr. Asif is a College of American Pathologists (CAP) accreditation inspection team member. He is also a regional expert and trainer for companion diagnostic immunochemistry for PDL1 biomarker clones. He has been published in numerous professional journals and frequently presents cases and papers at local and regional meetings.

Specialty Area(s)

- Biomarkers
- Gynecological pathology
- Breast pathology
- Genitourinary pathology
- Lung and soft tissue tumors



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Dr. Ayoub Nahal

Consultant Anatomic Pathologist

Dr. Ayoub Nahal is a Consultant Anatomic Pathologist at NRL. His main interests and expertise include the interpretation of biopsy and resection specimens in the fields of soft tissue and bone tumor pathology, genitourinary pathology, cytopathology and has special interest in digital pathology. In cytopathology, his expertise include the cytologic diagnosis of thyroid nodules and endoscopic ultrasound guided fine needle aspirations of pancreatic solid and cystic tumors.

Prior to joining NRL, Dr. Ayoub was a Staff Physician and Consultant Pathologist and Cytopathologist in the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. Dr. Ayoub has had 12 years' working experience in Anatomic Pathology from McGill University Health Center in Montreal, Canada. At McGill University, he also held an academic appointment of Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine where he was a regular lecturer.

He holds two American Board Certifications both in Anatomic Pathology and Cytopathology. He received his pathology residency at St Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center of New York, followed by three fellowships, two of which obtained from Hartford Hospital, Connecticut in General Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology respectively, and a third fellowship in Oncologic Pathology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Specialty Area(s)

- Cytopathology
- Soft tissue and bone tumor pathology



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Dr. Haytham Dimashkieh

Consultant Anatomic Pathologist

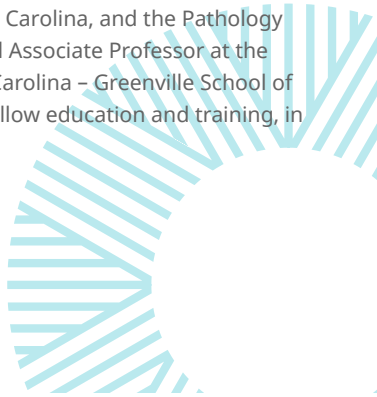
Dr. Haytham Dimashkieh is an American Board-certified anatomic and clinical pathologist and cytopathologist and a Fellow of the College of American Pathologists.

A graduate of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, Dr. Haytham completed his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio, followed by a Medical and Surgical Pathology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota and a Cytopathology fellowship at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas.

Dr. Haytham practiced for 12 years in South Carolina, US, in both academic and private practice sectors as a general surgical pathologist and cytopathologist, with subspecialty expertise and interest in tubular gastrointestinal pathology, breast pathology, lung cytology and fine needle aspiration cytology. His past employers include the Medical University of South Carolina, and the Pathology Associates of Greenville. His academic appointments were as Clinical Associate Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina and at the University of South Carolina – Greenville School of Medicine, where he was involved in medical student, resident and fellow education and training, in addition to presenting at national meetings.

Specialty Area(s)

- Cytopathology
- Surgical pathology
- Breast pathology
- Gastrointestinal pathology





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Dr. Manuel Algora

Director of Transfusion Medicine

Dr. Manuel Algora joined NRL from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi's Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute in 2020. He specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of blood-related disorders. His expertise includes transfusion, identification of unexpected alloantibodies, safe blood programs, rational uses of blood and blood products, as well as clinical care of patients with anemia, low platelet levels, hemostatic disorders and other coagulation problems.

Dr. Manuel received his medical degree from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid Faculty of Medicine in Madrid, Spain. He completed his residency in Hematology and Hemotherapy at the Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda, also in Madrid.

Prior to moving to Abu Dhabi, Dr. Manuel worked as a consultant in transfusion medicine and hematology at Hospital Quirón San José and Hospital Quirón San Camilo in Madrid, Spain. He was also Head of Department at the Madrid Blood Transfusion Center, where he oversaw blood separation, storage, transport, apheresis and quality of components. Other career highlights include a posting as Clinical Professor of Pathology at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, Ohio, USA. He has been published in multiple medical journals and has participated in numerous courses, seminars and congresses worldwide.

Specialty Area(s)

- Coagulation disorders
- Sickle cell disease
- Transfusing practice
- Chronic anemia



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Dr. Priti Joshi

Consultant Anatomic Pathologist

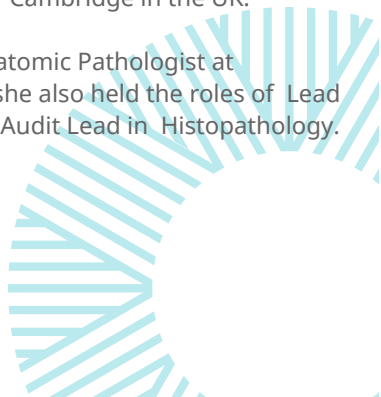
Dr. Priti Joshi joined NRL in 2020 from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi's Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute. She is an Anatomic Pathologist with special interest in gynecological, urological and gastro-intestinal pathology, and also in non-gynecological cytology. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, UK, and has full registration with General Medical Council, UK.

Dr. Priti completed her medical degree and postgraduate studies at the University of Mumbai in India, and did her residency in Pathology at the university's Seth G S Medical College. She then completed higher specialist training in Histopathology and Cytopathology at Addenbrookes' hospital at the University of Cambridge in the UK.

Before moving to Abu Dhabi, she worked as a Consultant Anatomic Pathologist at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK, where she also held the roles of Lead Pathologist for the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme and Audit Lead in Histopathology.

Specialty Area(s)

- Gynecological
- Urological
- Gastrointestinal pathology





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Dr. Ahmad Al Duaij

Consultant Anatomic and
Clinical Pathologist

Dr. Ahmad joined NRL 2020 as a Consultant Anatomic and Clinical Pathologist. He has expertise in hematopoietic pathology, including benign hematology, body fluids, myeloid neoplasms and lymphoid neoplasms; and gastrointestinal, pancreatic and liver pathology. He is a Fellow of the College of American Pathologists, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology, as well as a Diplomate of the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic Pathology, Clinical Pathology and Hematology.

A graduate of the University of Liverpool in the UK, Dr. Ahmad completed his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at a Brown University-affiliated program in 2011 and his fellowship in Hematopathology at the Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, US. He then completed a fellowship in Gastrointestinal Tract, Pancreas and Liver Pathology at a Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, US.

He moved to NRL from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, and prior to that, he held the role of Pathologist at the Kuwait Ministry of Health, where he was responsible for the diagnosis and staging of cases of hematologic cancers, including anemia, thalassemia, leukemia, lymphoma; as well as gastrointestinal, pancreatic, biliary and liver cancer and non-cancer conditions.

Specialty Area(s)

- Hematopathology
- Liver pathology
- Gastrointestinal tract
- Pancreas



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Dr. Saly Hassan

Specialist Clinical Pathology

Dr. Saly is a Dubai-based NRL Specialist Clinical Pathologist. She brings more than 16 years of expertise in Clinical Pathology to this role. Dr. Hassan joined National Reference Laboratory in January 2021.

Dr. Saly's professional medical practice career includes several positions such as Head of Laboratory Department at Neuro Spinal Hospital (Dubai) since 2016, as well as Clinical Pathologist at Al Borg Laboratory (Cairo) and at Misr University for Science and Technology (Cairo).

In her medical research career, she authored and co-authored several publications in Antimicrobial Resistance. She is also an international Fellow of the College of American Pathologists.

Dr. Saly received her Medical Doctorate (MD) in Clinical and Chemical Pathology from Cairo University in 2010. She is also a medical faculty member and Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology at Beni Suef University since 2016. While she earned her MBBCH degree in 2001 and Master's degree in Clinical and Chemical Pathology from Ain Shams University in 2006.

Specialty Area(s)

- Clinical and Chemical Pathology