

Dr. MAHMUT ÇERKEZ ERGÖREN

Mahmut Çerkez Ergören was born in Kyrenia, 30th July 1982. After his graduation from 20 Temmuz Fen Lisesi (High School), he passed the Turkish Higher Education Exam and placed at Halic University, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. During his undergraduate education, he did internships at various prominent places in order to help his personal development on the application side of genetics science since he believed that theory and application coupled together would give him a competitive edge. One of the places he did internship was Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics funded by UNOPS. He participated in Thalassemia projects, cytogenetics department, molecular pathology and electron microscopy. He worked under guidance of Prof Stuart Forbes of Imperial College, London on a project looking at the bone marrow derived stem cells in the liver as a Project Assistant. Additionally, he wrote an undergraduate thesis about stem cell therapy in liver disease and he graduated with high success from the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetic, Halic University in 2005. 2005-2006, he studied with Dr. Christopher P. Palmer of Imperial College London, Division of Cell and Molecular Biology on a project investigating a microbial model for polycystic kidney disease gene 2. He got a PhD position at University of Leicester, Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences, Department of Genetics. He worked with and supervised by Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys the pioneered of DNA fingerprinting as his last PhD student. During his PhD, he has many oral and poster presentation at the International and National Conferences. He completed his PhD as a last PhD student of Prof Sir Jeffreys and move back to Turkish Republic of Cyprus for his mandatory military service. For a short period he was a lecturer at Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Health Sciences. Since 2013, He has started to work with Professor Dr. Nedime Searakinci at Near East University, Medical Faculty, Department of Medical Genetics. In April 2014 he attended to “Basic semen analysis” course that organised by European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, British Society of Andrology and University of Birmingham in Birmingham, UK and “Stem cells: Origins, genetic, properties and significance for fertility preservation” workshop organized by ESHRE in Brussels, Belgium. . In June, 2014 he has been selected as a national representative of Cyprus for ESHRE until 2017, moreover he is the first Turkish Cypriot who is selected to the committee of national representatives. Today Dr. Ergören is a lecturer and researcher at Near East University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Medical Genetics and Near East University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. Also he is lecturing at Near East University, Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nutrition and Dietetic. Furthermore, he has been working at Near East University Hospital, Medical Genetics Laboratory, Molecular Genetics Unit since August, 2013.

Research profile/interest:

He is interested in understanding the fundamental processes like mutation, recombination and polymorphism that generate DNA diversity and thus contribute to disease and drive evolution. His other major interest is reproductive genetics and use of stem cell therapies in reproductive science. During his studies at University of Leicester with Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, he focused on patterns and processes of human meiotic recombination, including understanding how recombination hotspots are specified and how they evolve as highly dynamic entities in the human genome.

As a researcher, phenotypic consequences of human genetic diversity particularly, genetic variation of human genes in dynamic regions of the human genome, the relationship of this variation with susceptibility to disease, and developing the techniques to able to clinical diagnosis and used them especially in personalized medicine also added and brought this entire research pathway to his attention.