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Since November 2013, Dr. Almalik is an Assistant Research Professor of Nanomedicine at King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST). He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at the Pharmacy School of King Saud University. Late 2013, Almalik established and lead the nanomedicine research group at the Life Science Research Institute of KACST. Shortly after, he was appointed as Deputy Director for Scientific Affairs where he is responsible for strengthen research and laboratory development within the institute. Currently, Dr. Almalik is the Director of the Institute.

Almalik obtained his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Manchester in September 2013. He was trained at the laboratory of polymers and biomaterials under the supervision of Professor Nicola Tirelli. During his Ph.D, Almalik studied the molecular design of nanomaterials and their interactions with biological environments in responsive fashion. In particular, Almalik research focused on the interactions of inflammatory cells with nanomaterials as well as the effect of such interactions on the delivery of genetic payloads. His research was the first to emphasize how ligand surface presentation on nanomaterials can affect the efficacy of delivery in a counter-intuitive fashion (nanomaterials with a lower affinity for their target receptor may allow a more efficient payload delivery). Before that, Almalik earned his master's degree with merit in Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Glasgow in December 2008.

In 2013, Almalik was awarded by the Royal Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Kingdom for his scientific distinction.

Key publications:

D. Ali, S. Alarifi, S. Alkahtani, AA. AlKahtane, A. Almalik, Cerium Oxide Nanoparticles Induce Oxidative Stress and Genotoxicity in Human Skin Melanoma Cells. *Cell Biochem Biophys* (2015) 71:1643–1651.

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