

# CURRICULUM VITAE ASIMAH RAFI-JANAJREH

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Microbiology and Immunology Division  
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## **Personal Information:**

Born: December 15, 1971, Baltimore, MD

## **Educational Background:**

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA  
August 1989 to May 1993  
B.S. Degree (Biology)  
QCA 3.21

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA  
August 1993-September 1998  
Ph.D. Degree (Immunology)  
Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti, Advisor

## **Course Work:**

BIOC Biochemistry for the Life Sciences  
BIOL Topics in Immunology  
ALS Molecular Biology for the Life Sciences  
BIOL Special Study (Immunology)  
VMS Current Research in Immunology  
BIOL Molecular Biology of the Cell  
STAT Biometry I

QCA=3.7

## **Grants Funded:**

Virginia Academy of Science Small Project Research Funds, \$1100, Spring 1997  
Matched by the Biology Department, \$500, Spring 1997

Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid-of Research, \$400, Spring 1995  
Matched by the Biology Department, \$400, Spring 1995

Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid-of Research, \$450, Spring 1994  
Matched by the Biology Department, \$450, Spring 1994

**Graduate Teaching Assistantships:**

Full Teaching Assistantship- Fall 1997, Spring 1998  
Full Teaching Assistantship- Fall 1996, Spring 1997, Summer 1997  
Full Teaching Assistantship- Fall 1995, Spring 1996  
Full Teaching Assistantship- Fall 1994, Spring 1995, Summer 1995  
Full Teaching Assistantship- Fall 1993, Spring 1994

**Awards:**

Second Place in the Graduate Student Competition at the Virginia Academy of Sciences at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. May 29, 1998

Gina Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship from the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., Summer 1997. Title of Study: Role of CD44 in the Development of Autoimmune Disease

J. Shelton Horsley Research Award, May 21-23, 1997. Title of Study: Hyaluronate-CD44 Interactions Can Induce Murine B Cell Activation

Third Place in the Graduate Student Competition at the Virginia Academy of Sciences at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. May 21-23, 1997

**Professional Memberships:**

Student member of Virginia Academy of Sciences (1994-1998)  
Associate member of Sigma Xi (1994-1997)

**Papers Published:**

Rafi-Janajreh, A., Nagarkatti, P., Nagarkatti, M. Role of CD44 in CTL and NK Cell Activity. *Frontiers in Bioscience* 3, d665-671, July 1, 1998.

Rafi, A., Nagarkatti, M., Nagarkatti, P. Hyaluronate-CD44 Interactions Can Induce Murine B Cell Activation, *BLOOD* 89(8): 2901 April 1997.

Hammond-McKibben, D., Rafi, A., Nagarkatti, P., Nagarkatti, M. Fas and FasL interactions in cytotoxicity and its role in lymphoproliferative disease. *Molecular Biology of Hematopoiesis* 5, edited by Abraham et al. Plenum Press, New York, p 411-416; 1996.

**Papers In Press:**

Rafi, A., Zeytun, A., Bradley, M., Sponenberg, P., Grayson, R., Nagarkatti, M., Nagarkatti, P. Evidence for the Involvement of Fas Ligand and Perforin in the Induction of Vascular Leak Syndrome. *Journal of Immunology*, 1998.

Bradley, M., Zeytun, A., Rafi-Janajreh, A., Nagarkatti, P., Nagarkatti, M. Role of Spontaneous and IL-2 Induced NK Activity in the Cytotoxicity and Rejection of Fas<sup>+</sup> and Fas<sup>-</sup> Tumor Cells. *BLOOD*, 1998.

**Manuscript In Preparation:**

Rafi-Janajreh, A., Grayson, R.L., Sponenberg, P., Nagarkatti, M., Nagarkatti, P.S. Role of CD44 in the Induction of Vascular Leak Syndrome.

### **Presentation at Meetings:**

Nagarkatti, M., Rafi-Janajreh, A., Sponenberg, P., Grayson, R.L., Nagarkatti, P.S. Role of CD44 in Vascular Leak Syndrome: Mechanistic Studies Using Perforin Knockout, Fas Deficient and Fas Ligand Defective Mice. Presented at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Tenth Annual Research Symposium, June 1998.

Rafi-Janajreh, A., Zeytun, A., Bradley, M., Sponenberg, P., Grayson, R., Nagarkatti, M., Nagarkatti, P. Involvement of Fas Ligand, Perforin and CD44 in the Induction of Vascular Leak Syndrome. Presented at the Virginia Academy of Sciences George Mason University, May 1998.

Rafi, A., Zeytun, A., Bradley, M., Sponenberg, P., Grayson, R., Nagarkatti, M., Nagarkatti, P. Evidence for the Involvement of Fas Ligand and Perforin in the Induction of Vascular Leak Syndrome. Presented at the American Cancer Society Seminar of Cancer Researchers in Virginia, Blacksburg, VA, March 1998.

Rafi, A., Nagarkatti, M., Nagarkatti, P. Hyaluronate-CD44 Interactions Can Induce Murine B-Cell Activation. Presented at the Virginia Academy of Sciences at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. May 21-23, 1997.

Rafi, A., Nagarkatti, M. and Nagarkatti, P. Role of Perforin and Fas Ligand (FasL) in the Development of Vascular Leak Syndrome (VLS) Following Treatment with Interleukin-2 (IL-2). Presented at the American Cancer Society Seminar of Cancer Researchers in Virginia, Richmond, VA, March 1997.

Rafi, A., Zeytun, A., Nagarkatti, M., Nagarkatti, P. Significance of Age Dependent Appearance of Cytolytic Double-Negative T Cells and their Ability to Constitutively Produce Cytokines in the Regulation of Immune Response in Mice Exhibiting Defects in *Fas* and *Fas* Ligand (*FasL*) Expression. Presented at the First International Conference on Immunology and Aging in Bethesda, MD, June 16-19, 1996.

Rafi, A., Hammond-McKibben, D., Nagarkatti, M., Nagarkatti, P. Interaction Between *Fas* Ligand (*FasL*) and *Fas* is Critical in the MHC-Unrestricted Cytotoxicity of Tumor Cells Exhibited by TCR<sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>-</sup>CD8<sup>-</sup> T Cells. Presented at the American Cancer Society Sixteenth Annual Seminar of Cancer Researchers in Virginia, Norfolk, VA, March 1996.

Rafi, A. and Nagarkatti, P. CD44-Hyaluronic Acid Interactions in B Lymphocyte Activation. Presented at the American Cancer Society Fifteenth Annual Seminar of Cancer Researchers in Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, April 1995.

Rafi, A. and Nagarkatti, P. Interactions Between CD44 and Hyaluronic Acid in B Lymphocyte Cell Activation. Selected for oral presentation at the minisymposium at the Federation of American Society for Experimental Biology National Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, April 9-13, 1995.

Rafi, A. and Nagarkatti, P. CD44-Hyaluronic Acid Interactions in B Lymphocyte Cell Activation. Poster presentation at the Graduate Research Symposium at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, March 1995.

Rafi, A. and Nagarkatti, P. CD44-Hyaluronic Acid Interactions in B Lymphocyte Cell Activation. Presented at the Virginia Academy of Sciences at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. May 20-21, 1994.

Rafi, A., Nagarkatti, P. CD44-Hyaluronic Acid Interactions in Lymphocyte Cell Activation. Presented at the American Cancer Society Fourteenth Annual Seminar of Cancer Researchers in Virginia, VPI&SU, Blacksburg, VA, March 1994.

**Presentations at Departmental Seminars:**

“Role of CD44-Hyaluronic Acid Interactions in Lymphocyte Cell Activation.” Biology Seminar Laboratory Series, Biology Department, Spring 1994.

“Evidence for the Involvement of Fas Ligand, Perforin and CD44 in the Induction of Vascular Leak Syndrome”. Biology Department, Fall 1998.