

Sam Abbassi, M.D., M.S.

Southern California Desert Retina Consultants
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Curriculum Vitae

Hobbies: Soccer, Biking
Languages: English (Fluent), German (Fluent), Farsi (Fluent)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

2007-2013: Rush Medical College, Chicago, IL – M.D., M.S.
2009-2010: Rush University Medical Center, M.S., Anatomy & Cell Biology (GPA: 4.0)
Thesis: *“In Vivo Studies of deltaNP63alpha During Skeletal Development”*
2004-2007: University of California, Los Angeles – B.S., Biochemistry (*With Honors*)
1999-2004: Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA (*With Honors*)
1992-1996: William Howard Taft High School, Woodland Hills, CA

POST-GRADUATE TRAINING

2017-2019: University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Fellowship: Vitreoretinal Surgery
2014-2017: UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA
Residency: Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences
2013-2014: UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA
Internship: Department of Internal Medicine

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-Present: Southern California Desert Retina Consultants, Palm Desert, CA
Associate physician
2019-2019: University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
Section of Vitreoretinal Surgery
Visiting professor
2007-2011: Medical Management Solutions, Inc., Canoga Park, CA
Consultant: Designing protocols and manuals to maximize office efficiency, updating and designing reporting templates.
2000-2007: Medical Management Solutions, Inc., Canoga Park, CA
Director of Operations
1998-2000: Beverly Hills Urgent Care Medical Center, Beverly Hills, CA
Health Point Services of America, Beverly Hills, CA

Director of Medical Records and Billing

1996-1998: Beverly Hills Urgent Care Medical Center, Beverly Hills, CA
Medical Biller

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

08/12-09/12: UCLA-Jules Stein Eye Institute (David Geffen SOM), Los Angeles, CA
Jean-Pierre Hubschman, M.D., Department of Ophthalmology
Division of Vitreoretinal Diseases & Surgery
Research Area: Rheologic studies of the vitreous, Automated Retinal Image Analysis
Research Methods: Sample collection, data analysis

05/11-06/11: USC-Doheny Eye Institute (Keck School of Medicine), Los Angeles, CA
Mary D. Allen Laboratories for Vision Research
Cheryl M. Craft, Ph.D., Department of Ophthalmology
Research Area: Macular Degeneration; Cone Dystrophy
Research Methods: Bioinformatics, gene expression

07/09-12/10: Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL
Qiping Zheng, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Anatomy & Cellular Biology
Research Area: Chondrocyte differentiation; skeletal development; bone tumors/sarcomas
Research Methods: molecular cloning, transgenic mice, gene expression, histology, skeletal staining

06/08-09/08: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA
Phillip Koeffler, M.D., Department of Hematology/Oncology
Research Area: DLBC Lymphoma, Breast cancer, and Pancreatic cancer
Research Methods: PCR, protein extraction, western blot

HONORS/AWARDS

11/2018: University of Iowa, department of Ophthalmology resident teaching award

06/2013: William Hamlin Wilder, M.D. Endowed Scholarship in Ophthalmology

06/2011: Richard Newton Lolley Memorial Scholarship for Vision Research

01/2011: Orthopedic Research Society podium presentation: "*Overexpressing P63 in Hypertrophic Chondrocytes Impacts Endochondral Bone Formation during Skeletal Development*"

04/2010: Sigma Xi Outstanding Student Research Presentation Award; Rush University Medical Center Research Forum

07/09-12/10: Recipient of T-32 training grant for graduate studies

2007: UCLA, University College Honors Program

2006: Golden Key International Honor Society

12/05 & 12/06: National Dean's List

2004: Santa Monica College Scholars Program

ORGANIZATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 05/2015: Liga International: Flying Doctors of Mercy, San Blas, Mexico
- 05/2011: Feed my Starving Children-Summit Community Church -Buckeye, Arizona
- 01/2009: Indian American Medical Association (IAMA) clinic, Chicago, Illinois
- 2008-2009: Community Health Clinic, Chicago, Illinois
- 2004-2007: Dialogue Society, *President*

PRESENTATIONS/TALKS

1. Iowa Eye Annual Meeting and Alumni Reunion: “*Predominance of hyperopia in patients with molecularly confirmed Best disease.*” Iowa City, IA, June 2018
2. UC Davis 40th Ophthalmology Symposium: “*A Case of Unexplained Vision Loss.*” Napa, CA, June 2017
3. UC Davis 6th Resident and Alumni Research Symposium: “*Functional and Anatomic Outcomes of Subthreshold Micropulse Laser in Eyes with Diabetic Macular Edema.*” Sacramento, CA, June 2017
4. UC Davis 5th Resident and Alumni Research Symposium: “*Effect of Subthreshold Micropulse Diode Laser Therapy on Retinal and Choroidal Thickness in Eyes with Retinal Edema using Spectral Domain-OCT.*” Sacramento, CA June 2016
5. ARVO Oral Presentation: “*Intravitreal Dexamethasone in the Management of Acute Endophthalmitis: A Comparative Study*” Seattle, WA, May 2016

PUBLICATIONS

1. Moisseiev, E.; **Abbassi, S.**; Thinda, S.; Yoon, J.; Yiu, G.; Morse, LS.: “Subthreshold micropulse laser reduces anti-VEGF injection burden in patients with diabetic macular edema” European Journal of Ophthalmology: 2017 July. [PMID: 28731494]
2. **Abbassi, S.**; Moisseiev, E.; Park, SS.; Kim, ES.; O’Hara, M.: “Concurrent *Baylisascaris Procyonis* and *Varicella Zoster Virus* Infection in a Child with Purine Nucleoside Phosphorylase Deficiency” Clinics in Surgery: 2016 December 29, Vol 1., Article 1272
3. Moisseiev, E.; **Abbassi, S.**; Park, SS.: “Intravitreal Dexamethasone in the Management of Acute Endophthalmitis: A Comparative Retrospective Study” European Journal of Ophthalmology: 2016 September. [PMID: 27646336]
4. **Abbassi, S.**; Thinda S.; Morse LS.: “Hypertensive Retinopathy, Choroidopathy, and Optic Neuropathy.” JAMA Ophthalmol.: 2015 October 133(10). [PMID: 26448430]
5. Lu, Y.; **Abbassi, S.**; Li, F.; Ding, M.; Wu, G.; Gu, J.; Zheng, Q.: “Distinct function of P63 isoforms during embryonic skeletal development.” Gene: 2013 May 1; 519(2): 251-9. [PMID: 23481305]

6. Ding, M.; Lu, Y.; **Abbassi, S.**; Li, F.; Li, X.; Song, Y.; Geoffroy, V.; Im, HJ.; Zheng, Q.: "Targeting *Runx2* expression in hypertrophic chondrocytes impairs endochondral ossification during early skeletal development." *Journal of Cell Physiology*: 2012 October 227(10): 3446-56. [PMID: 22223437]
7. Thoennissen, Nils Heinrich; Thoennissen, Gabriela B.; **Abbassi, Sam**; Nabavi-Nouis, Shayan; Sauer, Tim; Doan, Ngan B.; Gery, Sigal; Müller-Tidow, Carsten; Said, Jonathan; Koeffler, Phillip H.: "Transcription factor CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein alpha and critical circadian clock downstream target gene *PER2* are highly deregulated in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma." *Leukemia and Lymphoma*: 2012 August. 58(8): 1577-85. [PMID: 22260161]
8. Li, F.; Lu, Y.; Ding, M.; Napierala, D.; **Abbassi, S.**; Chen, Y.; Duan, X.; Wang, S.; Lee, B.; Zheng, Q.: "Runx2 contributes to murine *Col10a1* gene regulation through direct interaction with its cis-enhancer." *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*: 2011 December, 26(12): 2899-910. [PMID: 21887706]
9. Ding, M; **Abbassi, S**; Li, J; Lu, Y; Geoffroy V; Li, F; Plaas, A., Zheng, Q: "Runx2 regulation of *Col10a1* expression during chondrocyte maturation impacts bone formation and joint maintenance." *Rush Orthopedic Journal*: June 2010
10. Li, F; Lu, Y; **Abbassi, S**; Ding, M; Chen, Y; Wang, S; Lee, B; and Zheng, Q: "Characterization of the hypertrophic chondrocyte-specific *Col10a1* cis-enhancer both in vitro and in vivo." *Rush Orthopedic Journal*: June 2010
11. Nils H. Thoennissen, James O'Kelly, David Lu, Gabriela B. Iwanski, DT La, **Sam Abbassi**, Amanda Leiter, Beth Karlan, Rajendra Mehta, H. Phillip Koeffler: "Capsaicin causes cell-cycle arrest and apoptosis in ER-positive and -negative breast cancer cells by modulating the EGFR/HER-2 pathway." *Oncogene*: 2010 January 14, 29(2): 285-96. [PMID: 19855437]
12. Nils H. Thoennissen, Gabriela B. Iwanski, Ngan B. Doan, Ryoko Okamoto, Patricia Lin, **Sam Abbassi**, Jee Hoon Song, Dong Yin, Melvin Toh, Wei Dong Xie, Jonathan W. Said, H. Phillip Koeffler: "Cucurbitacin B Induces Apoptosis by Inhibition of the JAK/STAT Pathway and Potentiates Antiproliferative Effects of Gemcitabine on Pancreatic Cancer Cells." *Cancer Research*: 2009 July 15, 69(14): 5876-84. [PMID: 19605406]

ABSTRACTS

1. **Abbassi, S.**, Binkley, E., Han, I., Christiansen, SM., Luse, M., Affatigato, L., Andorf, J., Yannuzzi, L., Stone, EM: "Predominance of hyperopia in patients with molecularly confirmed Best disease." *ARVO Conference, Honolulu, April 2018*
2. Shah, SU, Reed, DC, **Abbassi, S**, Freeman, R, Sharif-Kashani, P, Kavehpour, P, Hubschman, JP: "Vitreoretinal interface abnormalities and viscoelastic behavior of the vitreous" *ARVO Conference, Seattle, May 2013.*
3. **Abbassi, S.**, Li, F., Ding, M., Lu, Y., Wu, G., Wang, S., Zheng, Q: "Overexpressing P63 in Hypertrophic Chondrocytes Impacts Endochondral Bone Formation during Skeletal Development" *ORS Conference, Long Beach, January 2011*
4. Li F, Lu Y, Ding M, Napierala D, **Abbassi S**, Chen Y, Wang S, Lee B, Zheng Q: "Runx2 regulates tissue-specific murine type X collagen gene expression through direct interaction with its cis-enhancer" *ORS Conference, Long Beach, January 2011*
5. **Abbassi, S.**, Li, F., Ding, M., Lu, Y., Wu, G., Wang, S., Zheng, Q: "Overexpressing P63 in Hypertrophic Chondrocytes Impacts Endochondral Bone Formation during Skeletal Development" *ASBMR Conference, Toronto, Canada, October 2010*

6. Ding, M., **Abbassi, S.**, Li, J., Lu, Y., Sumner, DR., Geoffroy V., Li, F., Plaas, A., Zheng, Q: “*Runx2 overexpression in hypertrophic chondrocytes delayed chondrocyte maturation and endochondral ossification*” ASBMR Conference, Toronto, Canada, October 2010
7. Li, F., Lu, Y., Napierala, D., **Abbassi, S.**, Chen, Y., Ding, M., Wang, S., Lee, B., Zheng, Q: “*A 30-bp murine Col10a1 distal promoter is responsible for its hypertrophic chondrocyte-specific expression in vivo*” ASBMR Conference, Toronto, Canada, October 2010
8. **Sam Abbassi**, Ming Ding, Feifei Li, Yaojuan Lu, Guojun Wu, Qiping Zheng: “*Potential roles of oncogenic DeltaNP63a during bone and bone cancer formation*” AACR Conference, Washington D.C., April 2010; AND Midwest Connective Tissue Workshop, Chicago 2010
9. Feifei Li, Yaojuan Lu, **Sam Abbassi**, Ming Ding, Guojun Wu, Siying Wang, Qiping Zheng: “*Putative mechanism of TAP63a regulation of chondrocyte maturation during long bone development*” AACR Conference, Washington D.C., April 2010
10. Ming Ding, **Sam Abbassi**, Jun Li, Yaojuan Lu, Valerie Geoffroy, Feifei Li, Anna Plaas, Qiping Zheng: “*Runx2 Regulation of Col10a1 Expression During Chondrocyte Maturation Impacts Bone Formation and Joint Maintenance*” ORS Meeting, New Orleans, March 2010.
11. Feifei Li, Yaojuan Lu, **Sam Abbassi**, Ming Ding, Yuqing Chen, Brendan Lee, Qiping Zheng: “*Characterization of the hypertrophic chondrocyte-specific Col10a1 cis-enhancer both in vitro and in vivo*” ORS Meeting, New Orleans, March 2010.
12. Nils H. Thoennissen, Gabriela B. Iwanski, Ngan B. Doan, Ryoko Okamoto, **Sam Abbassi**, David Lu, Jee Hoon Song, Daniel Nowak, Melvin Toh, Wei Dong Xie, Jonathan W. Said, H. Phillip Koeffler: “*Cucurbitacin B has a markedly antiproliferative effect on pancreatic cancer cells in vitro and in vivo.*” AACR Conference, Denver, April 2009.
13. Nils H. Thoennissen, Qi Cao, Ngan B. Doan, **Sam Abbassi**, David Lu, Daniel Nowak, Gabriela B. Iwanski, Carsten Müller-Tidow, Jonathan W. Said, Sigal Gery, H. Phillip Koeffler: “*Expression of circadian core clock gene Per2 is markedly down-regulated in diffuse large B-cell lymphomas.*” AACR Conference, Denver, April 2009.
14. Nils H. Thoennissen, Tatayuki Akagi, **Sam Abbassi**, Daniel Nowak, Jee Hoon Song, Ann George, Gay Crooks, Carsten Mueller-Tidow, Adrian F. Gombart, H. Phillip Koeffler: “*Frequent in vivo redundancy of C/EBP β and C/EBP ϵ during myeloid development*” ASH Conference, San Francisco, December 2008.