

## Curriculum vitae



**Name:** Farnaz Zahedifard

**Date of Birth:** 10/09/1976

**Nationality:** Iranian

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### Academic Background:

**2001 – 2004** M.Sc., Molecular Cell Biology  
Khatam University, Tehran, Iran  
G.P.A:17.83 out of 20

**1996 – 2000** B.Sc., Microbiology  
Faculty of Science, University of Azzahra, Tehran, Iran  
G.P.A:16.13 out of 20

**MSc. Thesis:** Protective capacity of Cysteine proteinases against *L. infantum* infection in BALB/c mice.

**Supervisor:** Professor Sima Rafati at Molecular Immunology and Vaccine research Lab, Pasteur institute of IRAN)

### Publications:

1: Khoshgoo N, **Zahedifard F**, Azizi H, Taslimi Y, Alonso MJ, Rafati S. Cysteine proteinase type III is protective against *Leishmania infantum* infection in BALB/c mice and highly antigenic in visceral leishmaniasis individuals. *Vaccine*. 2008 Oct 29;26(46):5822-9.

2: Bolhassani A, **Zahedifard F**, Taghikhani M, Rafati S. Enhanced immunogenicity of HPV16E7 accompanied by Gp96 as an adjuvant in two vaccination strategies. *Vaccine*. 2008 Jun 19;26(26):3362-70.

3: Rafati S, **Zahedifard F**, Azari MK, Taslimi Y, Taheri T. *Leishmania infantum*: prime boost vaccination with C-terminal extension of cysteine proteinase type I displays both type 1 and 2 immune signatures in BALB/c mice. *Exp Parasitol*. 2008 Mar;118(3):393-401.

4: Balenga NA, **Zahedifard F**, Weiss R, Sarbolouki MN, Thalhamer J, Rafati S. Protective efficiency of dendrosomes as novel nano-sized adjuvants for DNA vaccination against birch pollen allergy. *J Biotechnol*. 2006 Jul 25;124(3):602-14.

5: Rafati S, Ghaemimanesh F, **Zahedifard F**. Comparison of potential protection induced by three vaccination strategies (DNA/DNA, Protein/Protein and DNA/Protein) against *Leishmania major* infection using Signal Peptidase type I in BALB/c mice. *Vaccine*. 2006 Apr 12;24(16):3290-7.

6: Rafati S, **Zahedifard F**, Nazgouee F., Prime-boost vaccination using cysteine proteinases type I and II of *Leishmania infantum* confers protective immunity in murine visceral leishmaniasis. *Vaccine*. 2006 Mar 15;24(12):2169-75.

### Conference presentations:

1) Poster presentation in 12<sup>th</sup> Immunology and allergy congress, July 18-23, 2004 Montreal, Canada.  
Title: Protective capacity of Cysteine Proteinase type I & II against experimental *L. infantum* infection in BALB/c mice

2) Oral presentation in Worldleish4, 3-7 Feb 2009, Lucknow, India.  
Title: Cysteine proteinase type III is protective against *Leishmania infantum* infection in BALB/c mice and highly immunogenic in visceral leishmaniasis individual

**Professional Research Experience:**

Evaluation of new candidate proteins and peptides for vaccine development against cutaneous and visceral Leishmaniasis by applying numerous techniques and methods (Pasteur Institute of Iran, since 2004 to present).

Advisor of 3 Master theses:

1. Immunological evaluation of *L. infantum* cpc gene in BALB/c mice. ( by Naghme Khoshgoo) 2007-2008
2. DNA vaccination of BALB/c mice with Amastin gene against *L. major* infection. ( by Parto Parsi) 2007-2008
3. Cloning and expression of GRP94 and evaluation of the antigenicity in VL and CL serum samples. ( by Narges Abdian) 2007-2008

Teaching assistant of vaccine course for PhD students at Pasteur Institute of Iran (First semester of 2007-2008).

**Research Member**

Research assistant in Molecular Immunology and Vaccine Research Laboratory, Pasteur Institute of Iran (2004 to date).

**Voluntary Work**

International workshop on *Leishmania*, Pasteur institute of IRAN, 1-6 March 2008.

**Research Interests**

Molecular Immunology, Vaccine Research, Molecular Cell Biology, Parasitology, Molecular Medicine, Molecular Genetics, & Microbiology