



Maha Rockaya

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ABOUT ME

Pharmacist and food scientist with an MSc in Food Control and a PhD in data-driven food quality and safety. My research focuses on predictive microbiology, statistical modelling, and data analysis to improve food safety and quality assessment. I have authored several peer-reviewed publications in international journals and presented my work at leading European food safety conferences. Through my academic and teaching experience, I have developed strong skills in experimental design, data interpretation, and knowledge dissemination. I am particularly interested in applying data-driven approaches to medical, agricultural and food systems, and in contributing to collaborative research and teaching.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): Food Science

University of Debrecen [09/2021 – 01/2026]

City: Debrecen | **Country:** Hungary | **Field(s) of study:** Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics | **Thesis:** Predictive modelling applied to the microbial safety of plant-based milk products

Predictive microbiology and data analysis, particularly in the context of plant-based milk and its biochemical composition and its influence on microbial growth.

Database ontology building combining microbial growth kinetics and chemical composition of different plant-based milks.

Applying mathematical modeling, statistical analysis, and user-friendly software tools to explore microbial behavior under the umbrella of food quality and safety.

Master of Science (MSc): Analytical And Food Chemistry (Food Control)

Latakia University (formerly Tishreen) [2017 – 2020]

City: Latakia | **Country:** Syria | **Field(s) of study:** Health and welfare | **Final grade:** 79% | **Thesis:** Physiochemical and Microbial Study on the Water of Hassan Spring in Al-Qadmus City

Bachelor of Science (BSc): Pharmacy And Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Latakia University (formerly Tishreen) [2011 – 2016]

City: Latakia | **Country:** Syria | **Field(s) of study:** Health and welfare | **Final grade:** 77.59% ; National State Exam Score: 82% | **Thesis:** Review of Parkinson's disease

WORK EXPERIENCE

FoodigIT – Thessaloniki, Greece

City: Thessaloniki | **Country:** Greece

Scientific Documentation Writer • FIT4 Manual

[12/2024 – 03/2025]

- Authored the official user manual for FIT4, a custom Excel-based VBA macro developed for fitting predictive microbiology models with 4 parameters.
- Designed structured, step-by-step guidance on data preparation, model fitting, results interpretation, and error troubleshooting.
- Collaborated with the lead developer (professor) to ensure scientific accuracy and usability.
- Enhanced tool adoption by making the manual user-friendly and practical for researchers and students with incorporated screenshots and examples.

Tishreen & Al-Andalus Universities – Syria

Country: Syria

Teaching • Assistant Lecturer

[09/2017 – 02/2021]

- Taught subjects belong to the pharmacy school curriculum like: Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy, Biochemistry, Immunology.
- Completed daily reports on attendance and disciplinary performance.
- Managed classroom behavior effectively, creating a positive learning atmosphere conducive to academic success.
- Tutored struggling students individually and in small groups to reinforce learning concepts.

HumanPharma & Al-Barakey – Latakia, Syria

City: Latakia | Country: Syria

Marketing • Medical Representative

[10/2016 – 03/2019]

- Arranged appointments with doctors, pharmacists and medical teams to raise awareness of latest product launches.
- Collaborated with sales team to develop targeted marketing strategies that boosted overall revenue growth.
- Generated doctors prescriptions for the company products.
- Achieved sales targets.

Two Private Pharmacies – Baniyas, Hungary

City: Baniyas | Country: Hungary

Management • Community Pharmacist (Internship)

[07/2013 – 09/2015]

- Discussed medical histories with patients and informed them on the proper dosage, warnings, storage and possible side effects of medications.
- Recommended OTC medication options to help mitigate individual symptoms.
- Ordered all pharmacy supplies and kept check on inventory levels.
- Developed communication and selling skills.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

[09/2021] Tempus Public Foundation

Holder of Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Award

[05/2025] International Association for Food Protection

Winner of European Symposium Student Travel Scholarship Award

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Arabic

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING C1 READING C1 WRITING C1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C1 SPOKEN INTERACTION C1

Hungarian

LISTENING A2 READING A2 WRITING A2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION A2 SPOKEN INTERACTION A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

PUBLICATIONS

- [2025]
[Cardinal Temperatures of Bacillus licheniformis Growing in Various Plant-based Milk Alternatives](#)
Journal Name: International Journal of Food Microbiology
- [2025]
[Variability of growth parameter estimates-The role of rescaling and reparametrization](#)
Journal Name: Food Microbiology
- [2024]
[From data to models and predictions in food microbiology](#)
Journal Name: Current Opinion in Food Science
- [2022]
[MilkyBase, a database of human milk composition as a function of maternal-, infant- and measurement conditions](#)
Journal Name: Nature Scientific Data
- [2021]
[A Statistical Analysis of the Nitrogenous Composition and its Relationship with the Microbiological Safety of the Hassan Spring Water in Al-Qadmous City](#)
Journal Name: Tishreen University Journal for Research and Scientific Studies (Health Sciences Series)

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- [01/09/2025 – 03/09/2025] Athens - Greece
The 13th ICPMF International Conference on Predictive Modelling in Food Congress
- [06/05/2025 – 08/05/2025] Madrid - Spain
The 17th European Symposium on Food Safety (IAFP)
- [30/04/2024 – 02/05/2024] Geneva - Switzerland
The 16th European Symposium on Food Safety (IAFP)
- [31/05/2024 – 31/05/2024] Szeged - Hungary
International Conference on Science, Technology, Engineering and Economy (ICOSTEE)
- [03/05/2023 – 05/05/2023] Aberdeen - UK
The 15th European Symposium on Food Safety (IAFP)
- [17/07/2023 – 21/07/2023] Visegrád - Hungary
Interdisciplinary Signaling Workshop
- [28/08/2022 – 31/08/2022] Athens - Greece
The 27th International ICFMH Conference (FoodMicro)
- [10/06/2022 – 11/06/2022] Budapest - Hungary
The 4th Conference on Food Science Technology and Innovation (FoodConf)
- [28/04/2022 – 28/04/2022] Szeged - Hungary
The 22nd Wellmann International Scientific Conference
- [01/11/2021 – 04/11/2021] Lausanne - Switzerland
The 35th European Federation of Food Science and Technology