

Dr Noël Ghanem is an associate professor of biology and a developmental neuroscientist studying adult neurogenesis and brain regeneration at the American University of Beirut. He obtained a PhD in Cell and Molecular Medicine from the University of Ottawa in 2006 and an MSC in Natural Sciences from the Lebanese University in 1999. He was as a post-doctoral fellow at the Ottawa Health Research Institute (OHRI) and part-time lecturer at the University of Ottawa from 2006-2009. During his doctoral studies, Dr Ghanem studied the transcriptional regulation of the *Dlx* gene family required for differentiation of all GABAergic neurons, and characterized the function of novel regulatory sequences including *Dlx* enhancers that are highly conserved in the vertebrate brain. Later, during his post-doctoral fellowship, he uncovered for the first time a direct role for the tumor suppressor gene, Retinoblastoma (pRb), and associated E2F transcription factors in the control of neuronal differentiation via direct regulation of *Dlx* gene expression, a role that extends beyond the classical role of Rb in cell cycle regulation. Dr Ghanem is leading an active research laboratory at AUB since 2010 and his primary research aims to understand the molecular mechanisms by which the Rb/E2F and p53 pathways control adult neurogenesis in the adult and aging brain using various mouse genetic models and cell culture systems. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles with direct implications on the fields of brain development and regenerative medicine. He is also an active teacher and has taught General Biology, Neurobiology and Developmental biology courses to over four thousand undergraduate students in the past decade.