



החברה הישראלית לכימיה
THE ISRAEL CHEMICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.chemistry.org.il>

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Dear ICS members,

It is my pleasure to announce that the winner of the 2018 ICS-Uri Golik Prize for an Excellent Graduate Student is **Mr. Muhammad Jbara** of the Technion Schulich Faculty of Chemistry.



Mr. Muhammad Jbara

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Muhammad Jbara was born in 1990 in Tayibe, Israel. He received both his BSc in Chemistry (2013) and MSc (Magna Cum Laude) from Ben-Gurion University (2015) under the supervision of Prof. Ashraf Brik. In 2015 he moved to the Technion together with the Brik group. His research focuses on the development of new tools for the chemical synthesis of complex modified histone proteins in order to understand the molecular basis of epigenetics. He discovered novel chemical approaches using palladium complexes to accelerate the synthesis and manipulation of various challenging proteins. These tools enabled the first total chemical synthesis of several protein targets for numerous ongoing biophysical and biochemical studies in collaboration with several groups in the USA, Germany, and France.

Muhammad has published 17 papers in high profile journals, including *Nature chemistry*, *Nature Communications*, *JACS*, *Angew. Chem.*, and *Chem. Commun.* He received several travel grants to attend international conferences, including the 34th European Peptide Symposium in Germany, the 25th American Peptide Symposium in Canada and the 35th European Peptide Symposium in Ireland. In addition, he received the Rahamimoff Travel Grant for Young Scientists of the BSF for short research studies in the Wolberger lab in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, working on the development of ubiquitinated nucleosomes probes for structural and functional analysis. He was awarded several scholarship and prizes, including the Wolf Foundation Prize for an outstanding Ph.D. student, the Schulich Fellowship and Prize, the council for higher education fellowship, and the 2017 ICS prize for the excellent graduate student. Next year he plans to join the group of Prof. Bradley L. Pentelute at MIT for his postdoctoral research on efficient and rapid access of diverse synthetic peptide libraries and therapeutic bioconjugates for biomedical applications.

The award ceremony will take place during the first day of the 84th ICS Annual Meeting on February 12, 2019.

Congratulations to Muhammad for his achievements!

Ehud Keinan



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