

IRENE CHERNI

School of Life Sciences
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EDUCATION

- 2007** M.S Molecular and Cellular Biology, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 2004** B.S Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology, ASU, Tempe, AZ
- 1997** Music degree in Piano and Performance, Sophia Krushelnitska School of Music, Ternopil, Ukraine.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2004 – Present** Upon my graduation I was promoted to a **research assistant** position at Tsafrir Mor's lab at Arizona State University where our efforts are directed towards employing bioscavanger qualities of cholinesterases against organophosphate poisoning. One of my projects was to characterize expression and stability of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) in maize. I was also instrumental in optimizing large-scale purification of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and now butyrylcholinesterase (BuChE) from tobacco plants.
- Summer 2003** As a **student intern** at Tsafrir Mor's lab at ASU I characterized transgenic tomato plants expressing isoforms of AChE and performed comparative analysis of enzyme expression levels and number of gene inserts in selected plant lines. My internship aided in expanding my knowledge of basic techniques applicable in plant biotechnology.
- 2002 – 2004** Upon transferring to ASU I had my first taste of molecular biology by joining Tsafrir Mor's lab as an **undergraduate student worker** where I held responsibility for completing general lab maintenance tasks. There I was originally introduced to plant tissue culture, molecular and biochemical techniques.
- 2001 – 2002** At South Dakota School of Mines and Technology I participated in a multifaceted study launched by the local Game Fish and Parks chapter in collaboration with Dr. Kerri Vierling. The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of urban gradient on native trout population in attempt to establish a cause for poor fish appearance in terms of size and weight. As an **undergraduate student assistant** my share of the project incorporated analyzing preserved fish stomach contents using a microscope and identifying components of fish diet using entomological taxonomy index which were subsequently subjected to caloric intake analysis.

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CONFERENCES

MPR₆₄₉₋₆₈₄-HBsAg fusion as a vaccine candidate against HIV-I infection. *AIDS Vaccine 2006*. Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Aug 2006 (Poster).

Effect of urban gradient on trout diet in Rapid Creek. *South Dakota Academy of Science*. Sioux Falls, SD, April 2002 (Selected for oral presentation).

PUBLICATION

Geyer BC, Muralidharan M, **Cherni I**, Doran J, Fletcher SP, Evron, T, Soreq H and Mor TS (2005). Purification of Transgenic Plant-Derived Recombinant Human Acetylcholinesterase-R. *Chem Biol Interact*

AWARDS

- 2006 ASU School of Life Sciences Travel Grant - \$400
- 2006 AIDS Vaccine Conference partial support recipient - \$500
- 2000-2004 Dean's List
- 2003 University Grant - \$2000
- 2006 ASU School of Life Sciences Travel Grant - \$400
- 2006 AIDS Vaccine Conference partial support recipient - \$500
- 2003 ASU Grant - \$1,000
- 2003 Federal Pell Grant - \$2,800
- 2003 Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant - \$1,000
- 2000 Kiwanis Foundation Scholarship - \$1000
- 2000 Hetterschidt Foundation Scholarship - \$1000

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- 2005 – Present** elected member of my Homeowner's Association.
- 2004 – Present** *ad hoc* interpreter for Arizona Foreign Language Services; Russian and Ukrainian languages
- 2003 – Present** participant in annual ASU Cares community service projects