

# Serge Nader, PhD

EXPERTISE IN BIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY · AEROSOLS AND THE ORIGINS OF LIFE

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada - Open to relocate within Europe or Canada.

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## Research Experience

### Manager – Chem3D

Edmonton, Canada

University of Alberta, Department of Chemistry

Jun. 2023 - Oct. 2024

- Awarded **\$48,000** to establish a 3D Printing Service focused on research and education.
- Employed assistants and acquired a high-end 3D-printer to produce laboratory accessories.
- Supported 35 research groups across 7 University Departments and laboratories abroad.
- Worked with 10 technical services and research support groups.
- Prepared proposals, financial reports and project progress reports.
- The service achieved **\$25,000** in financial savings for the University of Alberta within its first year of operation.

### Postdoctoral fellowship

Edmonton, Canada

University of Alberta, Gunning-Lemieux Chemistry Centre, Mansy Group

Oct. 2019 - Oct. 2023

#### Research Activities:

- Conducted research on aerosols, proto-cells and proto-metabolism to explore mechanisms underlying the origins of life.
- Designed and built experimental setups for the generation and handling of aerosols.
- Studied interactions between liquid media and aqueous aerosols with a focus on aerosol to vesicle transformation.
- Synthesized peptides and carried out experiments under anaerobic conditions.
- Developed Fit-FeS, a spectral decomposition tool for UV-Vis spectra to analyze iron-sulfur clusters in peptides or proteins.
- Supervised and co-authored research publications with postdoctoral fellows and undergraduate, graduate and visiting students.

#### Laboratory Management and Administration:

- Led the set up of a new research laboratory upon the arrival of Prof. Mansy to the University of Alberta.
- Coordinated laboratory logistics and the procurement of equipment and supplies.
- Was in charge of competitive bid procedures, instrument purchase, installation and user training.
- Assembled AtmosBags, optimized Schlenk lines and installed an inert atmosphere glovebox system.
- Formalized laboratory safety and waste management. Wrote Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Designed and 3D-printed laboratory accessories to streamline workflow.

### Doctoral thesis

Grenoble, France

French Atomic Energy Commission & National Centre for Scientific Research

Oct. 2015 - Nov. 2018

- Purified and carried out structural studies (MALLS, XAFS, SAXS) and crystallization of Fur proteins.
- Used molecular dynamics simulations and developed in house scripts to identify critical Fur amino acids.
- Proposed mechanistic models based on a coupled theoretical and experimental approach.

### Master of Science thesis

Lebanon & France

Université Paris Descartes & Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth

Feb. 2014 - Jun. 2015

- Laboratory of Pharmaceutical and Toxicological Chemistry and Biochemistry: performed interaction studies between a zinc metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase and an inhibitor using SIBFA, a polarizable force field.
- Laboratory of Structures and Interactions of Macromolecules: identified monoclonal antibodies recognition sites on the HIV-1 integrase using spectroscopic techniques.

## Grants and Awards

### Campus Sustainability Major Grant

University of Alberta

Holder of the Faculty of Science project “Sustainable procurement of laboratory accessories through 3D-printing”. Awarded **\$48,000** by the Energy & Climate Action office.

Jun. 2023

### Campus Sustainability Leaders Award

University of Alberta

Awarded by the University of Alberta Sustainability Council, [read the article](#).

Apr. 2023

## Education

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### Ph.D. in Structural Biology

Université Grenoble Alpes, Chemistry and Biology of Metals laboratory (LCBM)

*Grenoble, France*

2015 - 2018

### M.Sc. in Structures of Macromolecules and Functional Genomics

Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth, Faculty of Sciences

*Mar Roukoz, Lebanon*

2013 - 2015

### B.Sc. in Life and Earth Sciences - Biochemistry

Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth, Faculty of Sciences

*Mar Roukoz, Lebanon*

2010 - 2013

## Skills

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<b>Aerosols</b>	Expertise in aerosol generation and handling. Familiar with optical particle counters, custom and commercial nebulizers, microfluidics pressure regulators and gas mass flow controllers. Design of glassware for scientific glassblowing and de novo experimental apparatus.
<b>Vesicles and Peptides</b>	Liposome and vesicle preparation. Fluorescence assays. Peptide synthesis. Anaerobic experiments. Epifluorescence, confocal and transmission electron microscopy. LC-MS and UV-Vis spectrophotometry.
<b>Structural Biology</b>	Protein expression, purification and crystallization. Molecular Dynamics & Docking. Synchrotron beam-lines: XAFS and SAXS.
<b>Programming</b>	AWK, $\LaTeX$ , Python, Shell, Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), Linux/Unix environment.
<b>3D-design</b>	Autodesk Fusion 360, Cura, Microsoft 3D Builder, UltiMaker and Prusa ecosystems.
<b>Languages</b>	Arabic (native), French (fluent), English (fluent), Italian (novice).

## Teaching Experience

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### Academic years 2016-2017 & 2017-2018

Faculty of Pharmacy of Grenoble

*Grenoble, France*

128 hours

Taught laboratory courses for groups of 20 students for the M.Sc. "Drug Sciences and Health Engineering" at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Grenoble. Wrote examination questions and evaluated student exams, laboratory notebooks and oral presentations. Laboratory courses included the production of mutant and wild-type DNA sequences, bacterial transformation, protein production and purification, and activity assays.

## Additional Training and Certificates

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2022 **Naloxone training**, University of Alberta.

*Edmonton, Canada*

2019 **Transportation of Dangerous Goods**, University of Alberta.

*Edmonton, Canada*

2019 **Gender-Based Analysis+**, Government of Canada.

*Edmonton, Canada*

2017 **Doctoriales**®, Université Grenoble Alpes. Financial predictions for an innovation project.

*Autrans, France*

2016 **FAME+ 2016**, French National Centre for Scientific Research. X-ray absorption training for the control and management of an experiment using synchrotron beam-lines.

*Grenoble, France*

## Professional affiliations and memberships

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- European Astrobiology Network Association
- Origin of Life Early-career Network
- Société Française d'Exobiologie

## Service to the community

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### Deputy Returning Officer

Elections Canada, Government of Canada

Edmonton, Canada

Apr. 2025

Assisted electors in casting their ballots during the 2025 Federal Elections while staffing a bilingual polling station to accommodate diverse voters. Ensured strict compliance with voting procedures and managed lists of electors, ballots and necessary forms. Conducted the counting of ballots and facilitated the precise reporting of election results.

### 3D-Printing Service

University of Alberta, Department of Chemistry

Edmonton, Canada

Jun. 2023 - Oct. 2024

Established a 3D Printing Service dedicated to supporting research and education. Employed assistants and procured a high-end 3D printer to produce laboratory accessories, aiding 35 research groups across 7 University departments and laboratories abroad. Collaborated with 10 technical services and research support groups. The service achieved **\$25,000** in financial savings for the University of Alberta within its first year of operation.

### Fossil preparation

University of Alberta, Dino Lab

Edmonton, Canada

Oct. 2022 - Apr. 2023

Prepared fossil specimens uncovered from Dinosaur Provincial Park (Alberta, Canada) and joined a local excavation field party. Featured in [Volunteer Spotlights](#).

### Bilingual judges - Team leader

Canada-Wide Science Fair | Expo-Sciences PanCanadienne

Edmonton, Canada

May. 2023

Assessed and scored science projects. Interviewed candidates in English or in French. Contributed to the judging panel of special awards programs.

### Laboratory council member

Laboratoire de Chimie et Biologie des Métaux - CEA

Grenoble, France

Oct. 2015 - Sep. 2018

Represented non permanent staff, PhD students and postdoctoral fellows, during laboratory council meetings. Organized social and team building activities. Created and managed social media pages for the laboratory.

### University board member

Saint Joseph University of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon

Oct. 2013 - Jul. 2015

Represented the Science and Technology Campus during general assemblies and meetings of the Saint-Joseph University board. Proposed and conveyed solutions for problems faced by campus students.

## Scientific Communications

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Jun. 2024 Campus Sustainability Mixer (Invited Seminar)

Edmonton, Canada

Dec. 2023 Saint George University of Beirut (Invited Seminar)

Beirut, Lebanon

Nov. 2023 Laboratoire de Chimie et Biologie de Métaux (Invited Seminar)

Grenoble, France

Nov. 2023 Conférence nationale d'Exobiologie (Oral Communication)

Grenoble, France

Oct. 2023 Origins of Life Donostia Meeting (Poster)

Donostia, Spain

Nov. 2022 Space Exploration Symposium (Oral Communication)

Edmonton, Canada

Jun. 2022 Molecular Origins of Life & Emergence of Life Forum (Poster)

Munich, Germany

Sep. 2018 Scientific meeting of the "Academic Research Community 1-Santé" (Oral Communication)

Isle d'Abeau, France

## Publications

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- D. Rossetto, **S. Nader**, C. Kufner, G. Lozano, L. Cerofolini, M. Fragai, V. Martin-Diaconescu, B. Zambelli, S. Ciurli, G. Guella, R. Szabla, D. Sassellov, S. S. Mansy, **Chemical Science**, 2025, “Preferential survival of prebiotic metallopeptides in the presence of ultraviolet light”. DOI: 10.1039/D5SC02170G **2025**
- S. Nader**, A. Baccouche, F. Connolly, M. Abou-Ghanem, S.A. Styler, J. Lewis, D. Pink, S.S. Mansy, **ACS Earth & Space Chemistry**, 2023, “Model atmospheric aerosols convert to cell-sized vesicles upon entry into lipid coated aqueous solution”. DOI: 10.1021/acsearthspacechem.2c00328 **2023**
- S. Nader**, L. Sebastianelli, S.S. Mansy, **Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A**, 2022, “Protometabolism as out-of-equilibrium chemistry”. DOI: 10.1098/rsta.2020.0423 **2022**
- L. Valer, D. Rossetto, S. Scintilla, Y.J. Hu, A. Tomar, **S. Nader**, I. Betinol, S.S. Mansy, **Canadian Journal of Chemistry**, 2022, “Methods to identify and characterize iron-sulfur oligopeptides in water”. DOI: 10.1139/cjc-2021-0237 **2022**
- M. Ha, **S. Nader**, S. Pawsey, J. Struppe, M. Monette, S.S. Mansy, J. Boekhoven, V.K. Michaelis, **The Journal of Physical Chemistry B**, 2021, “Racing Towards Fast and Effective 17O Isotopic Labeling and NMR Spectroscopy of N-formyl-MLF-OH and Associated Building Blocks”. DOI: 10.1021/acs.jpcc.1c07397 **2021**
- I. Betinol, **S. Nader**, S.S. Mansy, **Analytical Biochemistry**, 2021, “Spectral decomposition of iron-sulfur clusters”. DOI: 10.1016/j.ab.2021.114269; **Fit-FeS software**: DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4765989 **2021**
- S. Basak, **S. Nader**, S.S. Mansy, **JACS Au**, 2021, “Protometabolic Reduction of NAD<sup>+</sup> with  $\alpha$ -Keto Acids”. DOI: 10.1021/jacsau.0c00124 **2021**
- S. Nader**, J. Pérard, P. Carpentier, L. Arnaud, S. Crouzy, I. Michaud-Soret, **Biometals**, 2019, “New insights into the tetrameric family of the Fur metalloregulators”. DOI: 10.1007/s10534-019-00201-8 **2019**
- S. Nader**, **Université Grenoble Alpes**, “Structural studies on inhibition mechanisms, oligomerization and DNA binding of the transcription regulator Fur : from *in silico* simulations to *in vitro* biological assays”. <https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-02050234> **2018**
- J. Pérard, **S. Nader**, M. Levert, L. Arnaud, P. Carpentier, C. Siebert, F. Blanquet, C. Cavazza, P. Renesto, D. Schneider, M. Maurin, J. Coves, S. Crouzy, I. Michaud-Soret, **Communications Biology**, 2018, “Structural and functional studies of the metalloregulator Fur identify a promoter-binding mechanism and role in *Francisella tularensis* virulence”. DOI: 10.1038/s42003-018-0095-6 **2018**
- K. Kwapien, M. Damergi, **S. Nader**, L. El Khoury, Z. Hobaika, R. Maroun, J.P. Piquemal, L. Gavara, D. Berthomieu, J.F. Hernandez, N. Gresh, **The journal of physical chemistry. B**, 2017, “Calibration of 1,2,4-Triazole-3-Thione, an Original Zn-Binding Group of Metallo- $\beta$ -Lactamase Inhibitors. Validation of a Polarizable MM/MD Potential by Quantum Chemistry”. DOI: 10.1021/acs.jpcc.7b01053 **2017**

## Interests

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Squash • Paragliding • Mountaineering • Time-lapse photography • 3D-printing • Fossil preparation