

Amina Zoubeidi, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Urologic Sciences, University of British Columbia

Biography: Dr. Zoubeidi is currently a Professor and Vice Chair of research at the Department of Urologic Sciences and a senior scientist at the Vancouver Prostate Centre at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada. She received her PhD in 2004 from Universite de Montreal and completed a post doctoral fellowship at UBC (2005-2009). She started her independent career as an assistant professor in 2009 and reached the rank of professor in 2019. She is currently a Michael Smith Scholar. Earlier in her career, she was awarded the Terry Fox Young investigator and Prostate Cancer Foundation (USA) Young Investigator Award. Since then she received substantial funding from national (CIHR, MSFHR, TFRI, PCC) and international (PCF-USA, DOD) agencies as a principal investigator or co-investigator. She published over 90 peer review manuscripts in high impact journals and 10 book chapters. Her track record of research excellence is underscored by numerous accolades from the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Urological Association and others. She serves on several grant panel study sections including NIH, CIHR, PCa Canada, Prostate Cancer Foundation USA and others. In recognition of her achievements, she was awarded the UBC Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award for excellence in basic science twice and the UBC-DUS teaching award for excellence in basic science three times from her Department. Her trainees hold award from US-DOD, CIHR, PCF, PCC and others agencies.

Research Interest: Dr Zoubeidi's research program aims to uncover how our standard care of prostate cancer therapy targeting the androgen receptor (AR) induces treatment resistance and controls phenotypic plasticity, which has been associated with the clinically relevant problem of drug resistance in prostate cancer. Her multifaceted research program addresses the importance of various mechanisms of resistance in this inherently heterogeneous disease. Notably, her lab program discovered that prostate cancer lineage plasticity is assumed by dynamic and reversible epigenetic dysregulation. Subsequently, she identified the neural transcription factor BRN2 as a major regulator of one of the predominate forms of cell plasticity in prostate cancer, "the neuroendocrine phenotype". She developed a first-in-field small molecule inhibitor targeting BRN2 and is currently optimizing it with the goal to launch a phase I clinical trial in the near future.

SBUR Service: As an active SBUR member since 2011, Dr. Zoubeidi served on several different SBUR committees including: membership committee, trainee affairs committee, fall meeting organizing committee, abstract and travel awards selection committee and the awards committee. Dr. Zoubeidi is fully committed to continue her engagement to SBUR.

Vision Statement: It is an honor to be nominated for the position of At-Large Member. Regardless of the election outcome, I will continue to serve the society. If elected, I will continue to work with society members to enhance what we already know about SBUR as a forum where Ph.D.'s and clinicians, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students alike come together to create a stimulating and collaborative research environment to understand urological disease. I am a big advocate of trainees and early career investigators and will continue to enhance their support. I am a champion of diversity and equity. As such I will advocate for creating a forum for women in SBUR, which can only enhance the visibility of the society nationally and internationally.