

## **Personal Statement**

Wael A. Khamas BVM&S, MS, PhD  
Professor of Anatomy & Histology  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Western University of Health Sciences  
Pomona, CA, USA.

I graduated with a professional degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Baghdad and was hired as teaching assistance at the same college to help in teaching gross anatomy to professional students. I obtained my MS and PhD degrees in anatomy & histology from Iowa State University, USA and was trained as teaching assistance during my study over there interacting with DVM students.

I have experience in teaching several disciplines in my line of work including anatomy, techniques in histochemistry, applied and surgical anatomy (University of Baghdad), anatomy, histology, embryology, advanced histochemistry (Jordan University of Science and Technology), anatomy, histology, neuroanatomy and physiology (Purdue University), currently, all aspects of anatomical sciences (Western University of Health Sciences).

I have administrative positions in different colleges/universities as head of a department to assistant dean and currently as year I director at Western University of Health Sciences. I am very active at the academic senate level and served for almost ten years at Western University as a senator, vice chair, chair of the academic senate promoting faculty governance. I was given Harriet K. and Pumerantz award for leadership and service (2014).

My years in teaching to DVM, graduate and undergraduate students prepared me well for teaching gross/microscopic anatomy to veterinary students in a respected institution such as Western University. I was given the Pfizer distinguished teacher award (2009). My involvement in teaching in schools of veterinary medicine and other schools prepared me well for interdisciplinary programs such as PBL (problem based learning). It also prepared me well for appreciating of innovation in teaching, application and integration in basic medical sciences to solve clinical cases. It intrigued me to pursue joint projects with different disciplines experts that need the expertise in gross anatomy/histology and embryology.

My plan for the future is to develop innovative methods and incorporate them in teaching gross anatomy/histology to veterinary students and to students in other disciplines as the need arise.

I feel that my strength lies in the ability to move from one discipline to another gracefully and to explain large number of clinical cases and abnormalities using the basic anatomical knowledge which will help the students understand, comprehend and use the knowledge to solve some of the problems encountered in their training in the clinic.

My enthusiasm for continuous learning and researching in anatomy/histology will be reflected on the stimulation of my students' ability to learn anatomy and begin to integrate their knowledge to other disciplines. Besides, I always link clinical cases during the lectures to have the students appreciate learning anatomy/histology and see their importance for their future application.

I have developed appreciation and understanding of species diversity including camels and tailored my knowledge to different needs of DVM students and students in other disciplines as animal science, biomedical engineering and applied biological sciences. I also can integrate the knowledge of anatomy/histology to physiology and some pathological changes as well as congenital or acquired abnormalities encountered in the clinic.

I had relatively large number of publications on camel anatomy and histology of different body systems and love to collaborate with colleagues on the effects of different pollutants on camel in the future with emphasis on male and female genital system.

I am interested in preparing educational materials that will help in understanding of anatomical peculiarities of the llama, laboratory animals and I will be interested in developing courses including distance learning and internet based courses on the anatomy/histology of these animals which can be offered to veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

With regards to research over the last five years, my focus had been concentrated on the effect of the abamectin, and formalin on the genital system as well as the mechanism of thermoregulation of the seals genital systems.