

Noushin Arfatahery

Berlin, Germany

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**Profile** A dynamic researcher and advocate with extensive experience in biology, microbiology, and sustainable aquaculture. Passionate about advancing women in STEM and promoting gender equity in restrictive environments. Proven expertise in marine biology research, NGO leadership, and collaborative advocacy projects.

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## Education

**Freie Universität Berlin, Germany** Doctor of Biology (March 2020 – September 2024)

Thesis: Antibacterial Activity of Marine Sea Cucumber and Oyster against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Vibrio*

Supervisor: Prof. Jens Rolff

**Vancouver Island University, British Columbia, Canada** Fellowship in Fisheries and Oceans (August 2023)

Project: Exploring Genotype and Phenotype of the Symbiotic Relationship Between Sea Cucumbers and Oysters

Supervisor: Dr. Chris Pearce

**Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran** PhD in Microbiology (September 2016 – July 2018)

Thesis: Study of Antibacterial Activity of Sea Cucumber *Holothuria*

Supervisor: Prof. Ali Karimi

**Master in Food Microbiology** (September 2012 – July 2015)

Thesis: Characterization of Toxin Genes and Antimicrobial Susceptibility of *Staphylococcus aureus* Isolates from Fishery Products in Iran

Supervisor: Prof. Sassan Rezaie

**Tehran University, Tehran, Iran** Environmental Science (September 2009 – July 2011)

**Iran Medical University, Tehran, Iran** Bachelor in Medical Laboratory Science

(September 2004 – July 2008)

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## Professional Experience

**Shiraz University, Iran**

Research Fellow (December 2024 – Present)

- Evaluating the Effectiveness of Soy Milk in Reducing Menstrual Symptoms, Enhancing Skin Health, and Supporting Mental Well-Being Using a Daily Crossover Design.

**Freie Universität Berlin, Germany**

Research Fellow (May 2024 – December 2024)

- Conducted a comprehensive review on the potential of probiotics in managing PMS and PMDD.

### **Rolff Group, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany**

Research Fellow (May – October 2023)

- Investigated the effects of insect and probiotic feeding on aquaculture species.
- Supervisors: Prof. Jens Rolff, Dr. Charlotte Rafaluk-Mohr

### **Founder and Director, Women in STEM NGO (2021 – Present)**

- Initiated activities supporting Iranian women researchers and journalists in STEM.
- Advocated for gender equality and academic freedom for women in restrictive environments.
- Pursuing official registration in Berlin, Germany.

### **Advocate and Activist, Women in STEM Equality (2011 – Present)**

- Promoted women's participation in STEM at Tehran Medical University.
- Organized and supported protests advocating for gender equity in STEM for students, researchers, and journalists.

### **Integrated Agro-Aquaculture Systems (2020 – Present)**

- Designed sustainable aquaculture systems for rural communities in Iran, with a focus on gender inclusion.

### **Marine Environmental Protection Advocacy (2011 – Present)**

- Promoted sustainable marine practices and biodiversity conservation in Iran.
- Partnered with NGOs to implement community-driven environmental solutions..

### **Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Environment Organization, Iran**

Researcher (2017 – 2018)

- Studied concurrent growth of *Holothuria* sea cucumber and shrimp to control bacterial and viral pathogens.

### **Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran**

Research Assistant (2015 – 2016)

- Investigated the effects of gonadotropin hormone and female serum on prolificacy in sheep.
- Conducted comparative studies on aeroponic and soil culture of saffron.

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### **Honors and Awards**

- Travel award for attendance at the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), USA, 2024
- Research Fellowship - Vancouver Island University, 2023
- ASM Future Leaders Mentoring Fellowship (FLMF), 2023-2024
- Aquaculture Award, UK, 2022
- Scholar at Risk (SAR), 2020 – 2022
- Nomination for the John Maddox Prize, 2017-2019
- Excellence in Research Award - Tehran University of Medical Sciences, 2016
- 1st Class Honors in Master Degree, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, 2012
- Member of the Talent Organization, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, 2012-Present

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### **Professional Memberships**

- Young Affiliate, The World Academy of Sciences (UNESCO-TWAS), 2021-2026
- eLife Ambassador, 2025–2026
- Women in STEM, 2022 – Present

- American Society for Microbiology (ASM), 2015 – Present
- Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS), 2022 – Present
- International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), 2020 – Present
- European Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID), 2016 – Present
- World Aquaculture Society (WAS), 2021 – Present
- European Aquaculture Society (EAS), 2020 – Present

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## Publications

- Arfatahery N., Rafaluk-Mohr C., Rolff J., Wegner M. K. "Evidence for immune priming specificity and cross-protection against sympatric and allopatric *Vibrio splendidus* strains in the oyster *Magalana (Crassostrea) gigas*.(2024)" <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dci.2024.105221>
- Arfatahery N. et al. "Characterization of Toxin Genes and Antimicrobial Susceptibility of *Staphylococcus aureus* Isolates in Fishery Products in Iran." *Scientific Reports* 6, Article number: 34216 (2016). <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep34216>
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- Arfatahery N. et al. "Study of the prevalence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in marine and farmed shrimps in Iran aiming the future development of a prophylactic vaccine." *Procedia in Vaccinology* 9 (2015): 44–49. [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com) DOI:[10.1016/j.provac.2015.05.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.provac.2015.05.008)
- Arfatahery N. et al. "Antibacterial activity of the sea cucumber *Holothuria leucospilota* whole-body extract against *Staphylococcus aureus* strains MRSA SEA and SEB." *Research Square*. <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-301584/v1> DOI:[10.21203/rs.3.rs-301584/v1](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-301584/v1)
- Arfatahery N. et al. "The evaluation of the *Staphylococcus aureus* in shrimps and fishes supplied in Iran fishery center." *Biology*, 20 November 2015. DOI:[10.1016/j.provac.2015.05.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.provac.2015.05.008)
- Arfatahery N. "Women in Aquaculture." *North American Aquaculture Magazine*, July 27, 2022. <https://www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/share-her-story-contributing-to-food-sustainability>

## Conferences

- International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) USA ,2024
- American Society for Microbiology (ASM) USA, 2024
- World Forum Women in Science 2024, Rome, Italy - Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture Through Symbiotic Interactions Between Marine animal ,2024
- Robert Koch Doctoral Students Symposium, Berlin, Germany, 2022
- Aquaculture Canada and WAS North America St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada ,2022
- Aquaculture Congress, Madeira, Portugal, 2021
- ESCMID Conference, Vienna, Austria, 2017

## Skills

- **Research:** Biology Research, Microbiology, Food Microbiology, Environmental Sciences
- **Techniques:** Clinical Laboratory, Laboratory Techniques, Pathogen Risk Analysis

- **Data Analysis:** Data Collection, Statistics

- **Languages:** English (Advanced), German (Intermediate), Persian (Fluent), Arabic (Beginner)

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