

Get to Know NYCPM Faculty:
Kemal O. Yariv, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pre-Clinical Sciences
Director of Biochemistry



Dr. Kemal Oral Yariv earned his BS in molecular biology and genetics from Bogazici University in his native Turkey, with a minor in film studies, and came to the US in 2001 after earning that degree.

In 2008, he earned a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Miami, with a focus on genetics. Dr. Yariv took part in two post-doc programs. One at the Sylvester Cancer Center in Miami, where he worked on different treatments, and the second at the Genome Center in Miami, where he worked on hearing loss and other physical problems. (*See below for a partial list of Dr. Yariv's publications.)

He started teaching at the University of Miami while working at his first post-doc program, then taught biology at Miami Dade College. He then went to Rollins College in Orlando, FL, where he taught biology, biostatistics and genetics, taught in New Jersey, and then came here, in 2019.

There is a big overlap between genetics and biochemistry, Dr. Yariv says. This is applicable to real life, and people don't realize it.

The biochemistry in a human body is a result of genetic differences, he explains, whether one speaks about a large population or just two people with differences. Understanding these distinctions can determine possible, different types of treatments for diseases.

Dr. Yariv teaches first years, and wants them to understand the basics; he assumes they've had some exposure in their undergrad pre-med courses. He tries to make biochemistry as palatable as possible. As the subject builds and gets more complex, he works to make the subject more tangible. Biochemistry is not always esoteric, he says; he tries to make it down to earth.

In Turkey, Dr. Yariv lived in Istanbul, which he notes nostalgically is warmer than New York, but he loves the plethora of social/cultural activities available in New York City.

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*Publications:

Clin Genet. 2015 Feb;87(2):192-5.

A homozygous SIX6 mutation is associated with optic disc anomalies and macular atrophy and reduces retinal ganglion cell differentiation.

Yariz KO, Sakalar YB, Jin X, Hertz J, Sener EF, Akay H, Özbek MN, Farooq A, Goldberg J, Tekin M.
(Clinical Genetics)

Am J Hum Genet. 2012 Nov 2;91(5):872-82.

Mutations in OTOGL, encoding the inner ear protein otogelin-like, cause moderate sensorineural hearing loss.

Yariz KO1, Duman D, Zazo Seco C, Dallman J, Huang M, Peters TA, Sirmaci A, Lu N, Schraders M, Skromne I, Oostrik J, Diaz-Horta O, Young JI, Tokgoz-Yilmaz S, Konukseven O, Shahin H, Hetterschijt L, Kanaan M, Oonk AM, Edwards YJ, Li H, Atalay S, Blanton S, Desmidt AA, Liu XZ, Pennings RJ, Lu Z, Chen ZY, Kremer H, Tekin M.
(American Journal of Human Genetics)