

Career development workshop for women in physics

Women in Physics in Africa

Rim CHERIF

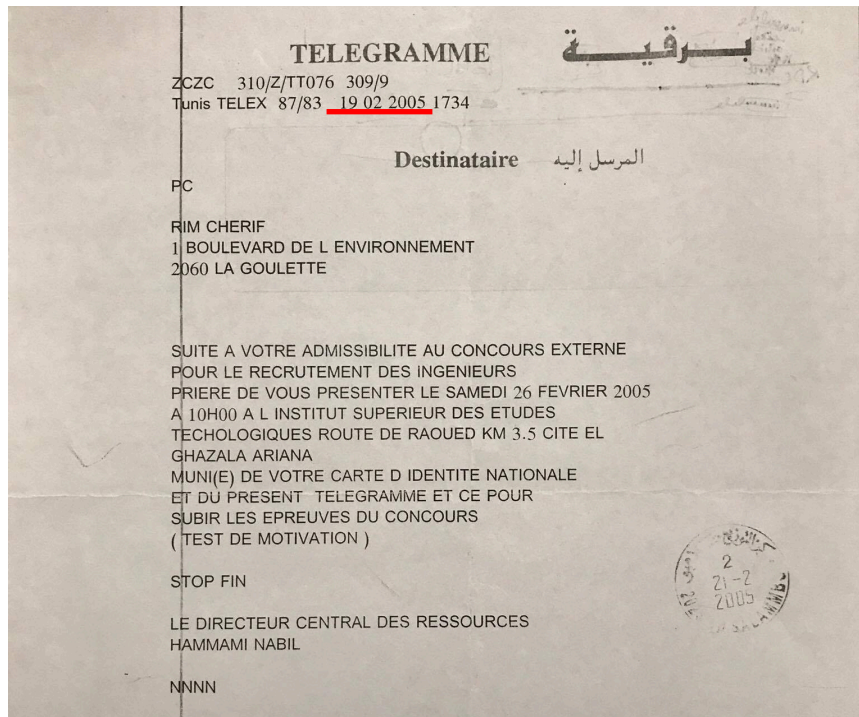
Associate professor of Telecommunications, Univ. of
Carthage, Tunisia

ICTP, Trieste, 13 October 2017



Difficult choice after graduation

January 2005, Engineering Diploma in Networks and Telecommunications (5 years), Institut national des sciences appliquées et de technologie, University of Carthage, Tunisia (Rank: Top 10/120).



Dreams become
reality one choice
at a time.

My choice...

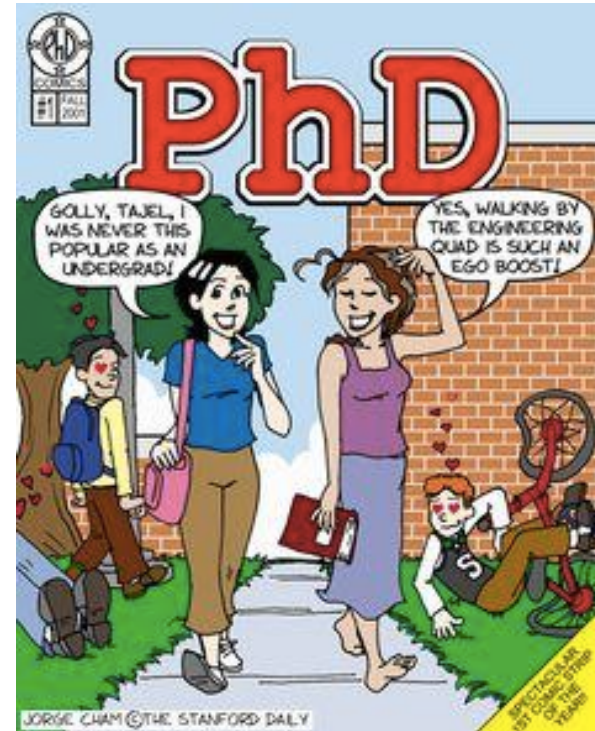
Because of lack of equipments in Tunisia:

University of Johannesburg, South Africa

University of Pavia, Italy

Xlim Laboratory, Limoges, France

Elettra Synctrotron, Trieste, Italy



April 2009, PhD in Information and communication technologies, Engineering school of communications of Tunis, University of Carthage, Tunisia.

Who inspired me getting in the field of Optics

Role model, good mentor



Prof. Mourad Zghal

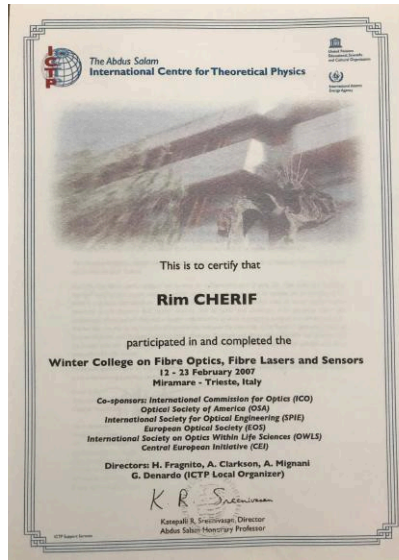
Research topic:

- Optical communications,
- Nonlinear optics,
- Photonic crystal fibers,
- Supercontinuum sources.

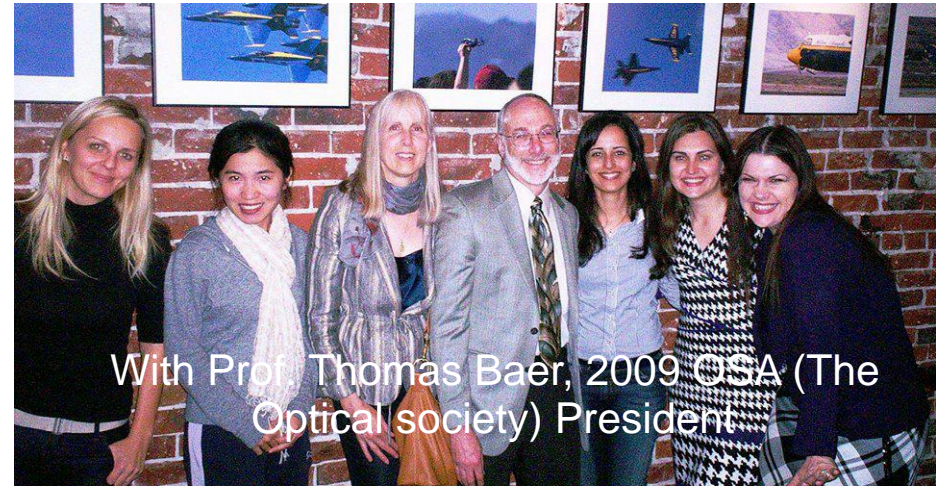
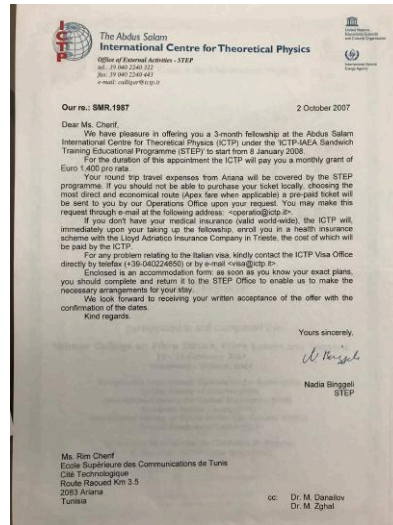


My journey started in ICTP

2007 as PhD student



I met great
« Key »
persons who
helped me
advancing my
career



I established the **OSA** and **SPIE** student chapters to promote optics and photonics in Tunisia and Africa

OPTSC
Optics and Photonics Tunisia Student Chapter

HOME ACTIVITIES EVENTS GALLERY PEOPLE NEWS

Promoting Optics & Photonics in Tunisia

HOME

Optics & Photonics Tunisia Student Chapter (OPTSC)

The engineering school of communication of Tunis (Sup'Com), which is the leading engineering school dedicated to ICT in Tunisia, and located in the main Tunisian technopark, involves a very active research group in the fields of optical fibre communications, nonlinear optics, optoelectronics, and photonics components for telecommunication-based applications.

“ In 2009, a group of PhD, MSc and Engineering students, led by Rim Cherif under the supervision of Mourad Zghal, established the first OSA (Optical Society of America) and SPIE (International Society for Optics and Photonics) chapters in Tunisia and the second in Africa. Moreover, our group named OPTSC (Optics and Photonics Tunisia Student Chapter), is an Optical Society of Tunisia (STO) student chapter.

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Active learning in optics and photonics

For middle school students

For undergraduate students



For high school students

For secondary school teachers



Expansion of student activities in Africa: from south to north

Rim Cherif^{1*}, Amine Ben Salem¹, Amor Gueddana¹, Mourad Zghal¹, Darryl Naidoo², Andrew Forbes², Alexander M. Heidt³, and Erich G. Rohwer³

¹Engineering school of communications of Tunis (Sup'Com), University of Carthage, Route de Raoued, 2083 El Ghazala, Tunis, Tunisia.

²CSIR National Laser Centre, PO Box 395, Pretoria 0001, South Africa.

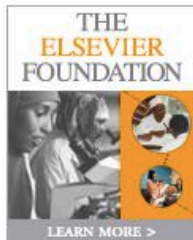
³Laser Research Institute, University of Stellenbosch, PO Box 3300, Matieland 7602, South Africa.



In Tunisia, optics workshops help women pursue emerging field

In the wake of the Arab Spring, the Elsevier Foundation supports an optics summer school for young women scientists

Over the past decade, optical technologies have become an indispensable part of daily life: fiber optics for telecoms, optical methods for medical imaging and cancer research, and optical parts in cars and computer screens are at the core of the world's technical infrastructure. The need for more experts in this discipline — along with the desire to encourage more women to pursue careers in science and engineering in a region disrupted by violent protests from the Arab Spring — inspired two universities to organize a summer school program for young female scientists: [Get Ahead with Optics](#) .



In September, the [University of Carthage School of Communication Engineering](#) in Tunisia and [Philipps-University Marburg](#) in Germany hosted their 10-day program in Yasmine Hammamet.

The aim was to orientate young women scientists in the rapidly evolving fields of optics and photonics while giving them career skills and a deeper understanding of what is needed to succeed as a woman scientist, said Kirstin Baum the initiator of the program and a doctoral candidate in medical engineering at Philipps-University.

A \$45,000 grant from the [Elsevier Foundation New Scholars program](#) enabled the summer school to host 23 scientists in an immersive program that "created a stimulating atmosphere for interaction and learning," explained co-convenor Rim Cherif. The event combined formal lectures with sessions on career/life management, discussion panels, roundtables and social events. The program was supported by additional funding of from the [Optical Society of America \(OSA\)](#), the [International Society for Optics and Photonics \(SPIE\)](#) and the [German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#).

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New Scholars Grants

2014	2013	2012	2011	
2010	2009	2008	2007	2006

2014

Career Building Workshops for STEM Women Scientists

Engineering School of Communications of Tunis

The advancement of women in science presents a significant opportunity to develop science in countries around the world. Based in Tunisia, this program is designed to provide early career women scientists with training in neglected career-building topics which are critical for career advancement. Partnering with the US COACH program, the Engineering school of communications in Tunis will provide 240 women scientists across Tunisia with six-day workshops offering training in grantsmanship, publication in quality journals, leadership skills, persuasive negotiation, communication techniques, scientific presentation design and delivery, career launch and advancement, self-promotion and mentoring for success and network building. The goal of the project is to enable Tunisian women scientists to acquire the skills, knowledge, techniques, and attitudes they need to successfully navigate their careers. It also provides a relevant bridge between COACH, a multifaceted and tested US career-training model, and the North

Find out more

- ▶ [Elsevier Foundation](#)
- ▶ [Career Women Scientists](#)
- ▶ [Developing World](#)
- ▶ [New Scholars Grants](#)

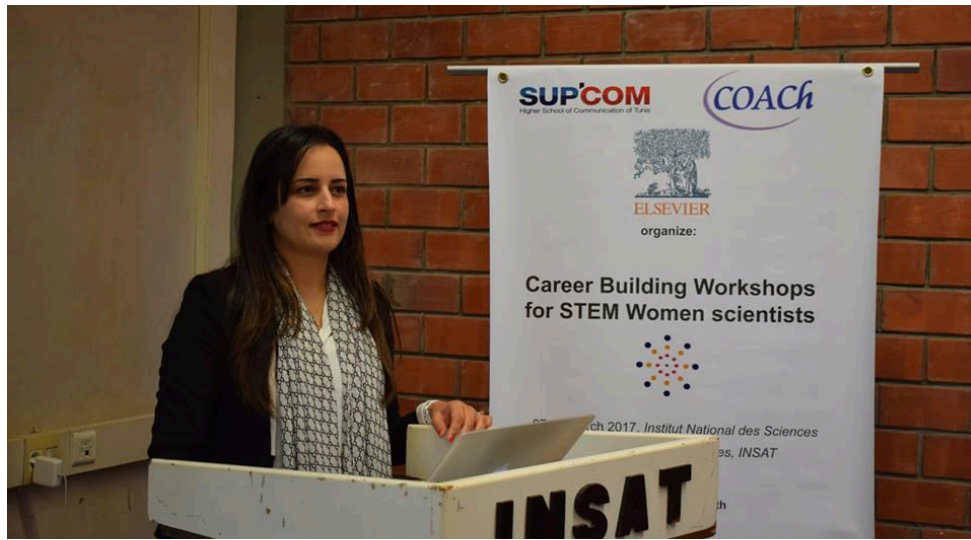
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RT @StephanieSpurr1: W
@ElsFoundation about #g
and business #GS7EU t.c

6 workshops in 2 years with 480 women attendees



2015 ICO/ICTP Gallieno Denardo Award



For her achievements in the field of **nonlinear optics** and in particular for her valuable contributions to the design of highly nonlinear fibers for supercontinuum generation, as well as for her active commitment aimed at the **diffusion of research in optics and photonics in Tunisia**.

2017 OSA (The Optical Society) Ambassador



Turkey



Singapore



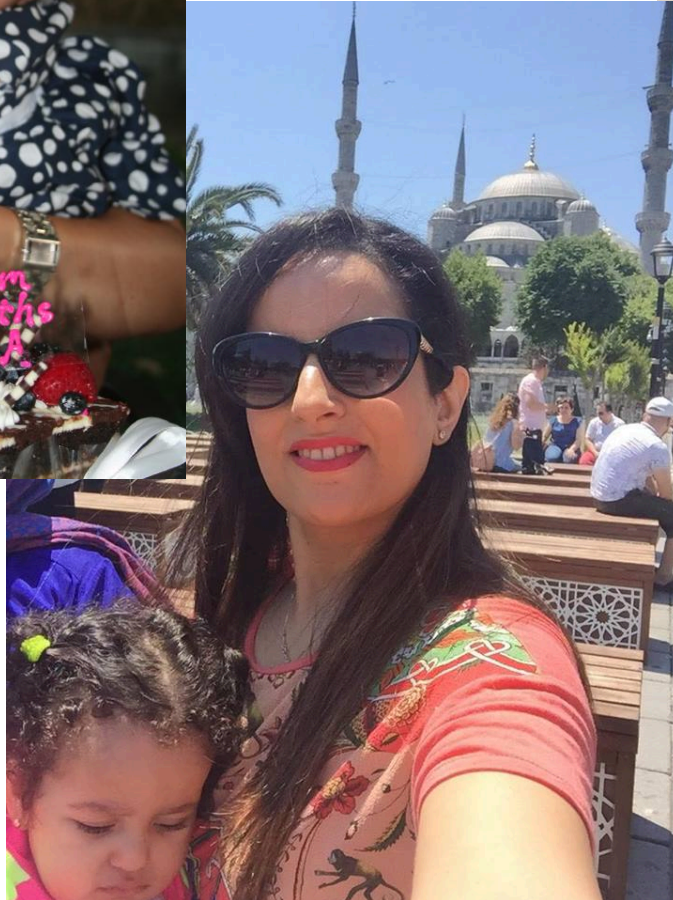
China



India



Many Challenges, we have to make the right choices



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February 1st, 2013

Dr. Rim CHERIF

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Sciences of Tunis,

University of Tunis ElManar, Tunisia

Researcher, Engineering school of Communications of Tunis (Sup'Com), Tunisia

Cite Technologique des Communications - Rte de Raoued Km 3,5 2083 El Ghazala Ariana
Tunisia

Dear Dr. Cherif :

I am pleased to inform you that you have been accepted as a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Future Industry-oriented Basic Science and Materials at Toyota Technological Institute, Nagoya, Japan. Professor Ohishi will supervise you in the research field of Photonics Materials and Devices.

The assignment is to start from July 1, 2013 and will be effective for one year. If the institute decides to extend your assignment, the contract will be renewed beyond that period, but cannot exceed longer than three years in total.

Your salary will be 320,000 yen per month. The travel expenses for you including one way air-fare from your place to Nagoya will be covered, together with the settling-in allowance needed to commence your living in Japan such as shipping your belongings. The detailed travel arrangements and housing should be made after you have accepted this offer.

Professor Ohishi has evaluated highly your research performance, and has strongly recommended you as a post-doctoral fellow to work with him. I also extend my personal congratulations to you for this assignment, and I welcome you as a family member to this existing campus.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Sakaki

Dr. Hiroyuki SAKAKI
President
Toyota Technological Institute

✓ Networking is very important



✓ Ressources/opportunities are available just apply and even if rejected keep applying:
Never give-up

✓ When there is a will there is a way

✓ Work hard and be positive

