



Dr. Hale ÖNDER YILMAZ

Dr Hale Onder Yilmaz is a Consultant Clinical Geneticist specialising in rare disease genetics, with additional expertise in Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) analysis as a UK-recognised Clinical Scientist (2023).

She completed her medical degree at Karadeniz Technical University Faculty of Medicine, followed by residency training in Medical Genetics at the same institution, where she qualified as a Consultant Clinical Geneticist in 2017. Her residency research focused on circulating microRNAs, with her thesis entitled *“MicroRNA Expression Levels in Patients with Hashimoto Thyroiditis.”*

During her mandatory service at Kahramanmaraş Necip Fazıl City Hospital, Dr Yilmaz established a medical genetics laboratory from the ground up. Over seven years, she served as both Consultant Clinical Geneticist and Laboratory Director, delivering comprehensive diagnostic and outpatient services to a population of approximately two million. Her work significantly improved regional access to genetic services, reducing the need for patients to travel to major cities. She also contributed to public engagement and education, delivering seminars to raise awareness of genetic conditions.

Alongside her clinical work, Dr Yilmaz completed a Master’s degree in Genomic Medicine at the University of Birmingham on a full scholarship, graduating with distinction. Her research focused on the tumour microenvironment, culminating in a thesis titled *“Exploring the Collagen Microenvironment in Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma.”* She also undertook clinical attachments at Birmingham Women’s Hospital and Oxford University Hospitals, gaining experience in UK clinical genetics practice.

Her research from both her residency and Master’s training has been published in high-impact peer-reviewed journals. She has additionally authored multiple publications, including articles, case reports, and book chapters, with a particular focus on breast cancer and rare diseases.

Since 2023, Dr Yilmaz has been working as a Clinical Scientist at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Genomics Laboratory, part of the North East and Yorkshire Genomic Laboratory Hub (NEYGLH). Her role involves the analysis of complex WGS cases, integration of genomic and

clinical data, and expert variant interpretation. She is also actively involved in teaching, delivering lectures on genomics and variant interpretation at the University of Leeds.

Dr Yilmaz is married with one child. Her husband, Mr Orkun Yilmaz, is a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon.