

CURRICULUM VITAE

Vassiliki Kostourou

Vascular Cell Adhesion Laboratory, BSRC Al. Fleming,

34 Al. Fleming, 166 72 Vari

email: kostourou@fleming.gr,

tel: +30 6936824476, **Fax::** +30 2109653934

University Studies

1998-2002. Ph.D. at St. George's Medical School, Department of Biochemistry-Immunology, University of London, UK

1997-1998. MSc in Biochemical Research, Imperial College Of Science, Technology & Medicine, Department of Biochemistry, University of London, UK.

1997-1998. Diploma in Biochemistry, Imperial College Of Science, Technology & Medicine, Department of Biochemistry, University of London, UK.

1993-1997. B.Sc. in Biology, University of Patras, Greece (upper second class degree).

Positions/Research experience

2007-now. Researcher C (Assistant Professor level) at the Biomedical Research Scientific Centre Al. Fleming. "Dissecting the role of cell adhesion and cell migration in angiogenesis and vascular pathologies".

2005-2007. Research fellow in Cell Adhesion and Disease Lab of Dr Kairbaan Hodivala-Dilke, Cancer Research UK Clinical Centre, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry: "The role of adhesion molecules in angiogenesis"

2002-2005. Research Fellow in the Vascular development Lab of Dr Ralf Adams, London Research Institute, Lincoln's Inn Fields Laboratories- Cancer Research UK: " Functional analysis of the GRIP 1 conditional knockout mice".

1998-2002. PhD student in the lab of Prof. Alan Johnstone and Prof. Guy St. Whitley, Dept of Biochemistry-Immunology, St. George's Medical School: " The role of NO and DDAH in tumour growth and angiogenesis".

1997-1998. MSc project dissertations (Imperial College, UK) in the laboratories of Dr R. Weinzierl: "Expression, purification and preliminary NMR analysis of the yeast and the archaeobacterial polymerase subunit RPB5"; Dr P. Nixon: "Characterization of Prohibitin, a highly conserved antiproliferative protein of

Synechocystis sp”; and Dr M. Selkirk: “A screen for chemokine-binding and chemokine receptor-binding proteins in parasitic nematodes”.

1996-1997. Diploma dissertation in the laboratory of Prof. A. Mintzas: “Isolation and cloning of the putative heat shock 27 gene in the medfly *Ceratitis Capitata*”.

Teaching experience

2010. Invited lecturer on “Cell Adhesion dynamics” and “Molecular mechanisms of angiogenesis” at the PhD programme of Gulbenkian Institute, Lisbon, Portugal.

2008-2010. Invited lecturer at the course “Multicellular Organisation of life” postgraduate programme of “Molecular Medicine”, Medical School, University of Athens, Greece.

2008. Supervisor of master student Sofia Birmipili, Université de Paris VI, Pierre et Marie Curie, France.

2006-2007. Invited lecturer at the course “Inside the cell”, PhD programme of Gulbenkian Institute, Lisbon, Portugal.

2005-2007. Participating in the supervision of PhD student Bernardo Tavora, at the lab of Dr K. Hodivala-Dilke , Cancer Research UK Clinical Centre, Barts & The London School of Medicine & Dentistry, London UK.

2003. Participating in the supervision of diploma student Gundrun VonHaven at the lab of Dr R. Adams, London Research Institute-Cancer Research UK.

1999-2001. Co-organiser and teaching of the practical courses in biochemistry, St George's Hospital Medical School, University of London, UK.

Honors/Distinctions

2007 Top third teacher of the course “Inside the cell”, PhD programme, Gulbenkian Institute, Lisbon, Portugal.

2005-2007. Cancer Research UK- project grant: The role of FAK in pathological angiogenesis (Co-applicant , PI: Dr. Kairbaan Hodivala-Dilke).

2002-2005. Postdoctoral Research Fellow of Cancer Research-UK.

1998-2002. PhD Fellowship of St. George's Medical School, University of London, UK.

Funding

2010-2014. Co-applicant of the co-operation call “From targets to Leads: Innovative therapeutics for arthritis” (total budget 2.445.750 euro)

Reviewer of International Scientific Journals

Journal of Cell Science (Impact Factor 6,427)

Publications/Impact Factor (IF)/ Citations

1. R. Silva, B. Tavora, L. Reynolds, C. Szekeres, J. Lamar, S. Batista, S. Robinson, [V. Kostourou](#), M. Germain, A. Reynolds, D. Jones, A. Watson, J. Jones, A. Harris, I. Hart, L. Iruela-Arispe, M. DiPersio, J. Kreidberg & K. Hodivala-Dilke. **2010** “Endothelial $\alpha 3 \beta 1$ -integrin represses pathological angiogenesis and sustains endothelial-VEGF” ***American Journal of Pathology*** (IF 5,7) 177:1534-1548, (cited : N/A)
2. M. Kalogeropoulou, A. Voulgari, [V. Kostourou](#), R. Sandaltzopoulos, R. Dikstein, I. Davidson, L. Tora & A. Pintzas. **2010** “TAF4b and Jun/AP-1 Collaborate to Regulate Expression of Integrin $\alpha 6$ and Cancer Cell Migration Properties” ***Molecular Cancer Research*** (IF 4,5) 8:554-68 (cited : N/A)
3. M. Germain, A. De Arcangelis, S. Robinson, M. Baker, B. Tavora, G. D’Amico, R. Silva, [V. Kostourou](#), L. Reynolds, A. Ramjaun, J. Jones, E. Georges-Labrousse & K. Hodivala-Dilke **2010** “Genetic ablation of the alpha 6-integrin subunit in Tie1Cre mice enhances tumour angiogenesis” ***Journal of Pathology*** (IF 5,1) 220:370-381. (cited: N/A)
4. G. D’Amico, D. Jones, E. Nye, K. Sapienza, A. Ramjuan, L. Reynolds, S. Robinson, [V. Kostourou](#), D. Martinez, D. Aubyn, R. Grose, G. Thomas, B. Spencer-Dene, D. Zicha, D. Davies, V. Tybulewicz, & K. Hodivala-Dilke. **2009** “Regulation of lymphatic-blood vessel separation by Rac-1” ***Development*** (IF 6,8) 136(23): 4043-4053. (cited : N/A)
5. S. Robinson, L. Reynolds, [V. Kostourou](#), A. Reynolds, R. Graça da Silva, J. Marshall & K. Hodivala-Dilke **2009** “ $\alpha v \beta 3$ -integrin limits the contribution of Neuropilin-1 to VEGF-induced angiogenesis”. ***Journal of Biological Chemistry*** (IF 5,5) 284: 33966-33981 (cited : 5)
6. A. Reynolds, I. Hart, A. Watson, J. Welte, R. Silva, S. Robinson, G. Da Violante, M. Gourlaouen, M. Salih, M. Jones, D. Jones, G. Saunders, [V. Kostourou](#), F. Perron-Sierra, J. Norman, G. Tucker & K. Hodivala-Dilke **2009** “Stimulation of tumor growth and angiogenesis by low concentrations of RGD mimetic integrin inhibitors”. ***Nature Medicine*** (IF 28) 15:372-400 (cited : 34)
7. S. Claxton, [V. Kostourou](#), S. Jadeja, P. Chambon, K. Hodivala-Dilke and M. Fruttiger **2008** “Efficient, inducible Cre-recombinase activation in vascular endothelium”. ***Genesis*** (IF 2,6) 46:74-80 (cited : 7)
8. K. Takamiya, [V. Kostourou](#), S. Adams, S. Jadeja, G. Chalepakis, P.J. Scambler, R. Haganir and R. Adams **2004** “A direct functional link between the multi-PDZ domain protein GRIP1 and the Frazer syndrome protein Fras1”. ***Nature Genetics*** (IF 30) 36:172-177 (cited : 58)
9. [V. Kostourou](#), H. Troy, J.F. Murray, G.ST. Whitley, J.R. Griffiths and S.P. Robinson **2004** “Overexpression of Dimethylarginine Dimethylaminohydrolase enhances tumour hypoxia: An insight into the relationship of hypoxia and angiogenesis in vivo” ***Neoplasia*** (IF 5,7) 6:401-404 (cited: 16)
10. [V. Kostourou](#), S.P. Robinson, G.ST. Whitley and J.R. Griffiths **2003** “Effects of Overexpression of Dimethylarginine Dimethylaminohydrolase on Tumour Angiogenesis Assessed by Susceptibility Magnetic Resonance Imaging” ***Cancer Research*** (IF 7,7) 63: 4960-4966 (cited : 33)

11. [V. Kostourou](#), S.P. Robinson, J.E. Cartwright and G.S.T. Whitley **2002** "Dimethylarginine Dimethylaminohydrolase I enhances tumour growth and angiogenesis". *British Journal of Cancer* (IF 4,6) 9:673-680 (cited : 40)
12. A. Thiru, M. Hodach, J.J. Eloranta, [V. Kostourou](#), R.O.J. Weinzierl and S. Matthews (1999) "RNA polymerase subunit H features a beta-ribbon motif within a novel fold that is present in archaea and eukaryotes" *Journal of Molecular Biology* (IF 4,5) 287:753-760. (cited : 5)

Invited speaker

- 2010.** "Vascular Development in health and disease".
Guelbenkian Institute, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2010.** Chair of session at the "Imaging Biomolecules in Time and Space", An advanced light microscopy symposium, University of Patras, Patra, Greece.
- 2007.** "The role of focal adhesion proteins in angiogenesis".
University of Leicester, Leicester, UK
- 2006.** "Investigating the role of Focal adhesion kinase in pathological angiogenesis".
58th National Conference, Hellenic Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Patras, Greece.
- 2006.** "Identifying the dynamic nature of cell adhesion".
Fleming Institute, Athens, Greece.
- 2005.** "GRIP regulates cell migration and focal adhesion remodelling".
Queen Mary's College, CRUK Clinical Centre, London, UK.
- 2005.** "Getting to GRIPs with cell adhesion remodelling".
IIBEA, Athens, Greece.
- 2000.** "The role of DDAH in tumour growth and angiogenesis".
London Research Institute (ICRF), Cancer Research UK.
- 2000.** "The role of DDAH in tumour growth and angiogenesis".
Cancer Research Theme Group Meeting, St. George's Hospital Medical School

Conferences (abstracts)

1. **V. Kostourou**, S. Monkley, D. Critchley: "Endothelial specific deletion of Talin1 affects embryonic blood vessel development" 6th International Kloster Seeon Meeting Angiogenesis: molecular mechanisms and functional interactions, Kloster Seeon, Germany, September 18-13, 2010
2. **V. Kostourou**, C. Wren, R. Silva, G. McLean, M. Frame and K. Hodivala-Dilke: "FAK-heterozygosity enhances pathological angiogenesis" Gordon conference on "Vascular biology", Ventura, CA, USA, February 11-16, 2007
3. M. Germain, A. De Arcangelis, **V.Kostourou**, A.Reynolds, L.Reynolds, S.Robinson, E. George-Labouesse, K. Hodivala-Dilke: "Understanding the role of alpha6-integrin in angiogenesis" Genes and Cancer Meeting, University of Warwick, UK, December 11 – 13, 2006
4. G.D'amico, **V.Kostourou**, R.Grose, V.Tybulewicz, K.Steen, S. Robinson, G. Saunders, M. Germain, L. Reynolds and K. Hodivala-Dilke: "Rac1 is required

for vessel maintenance but not developmental angiogenesis". Miami Nature Biotechnology Winter Symposium in "Angiogenesis in Cancer and Vascular Disease", Miami Beach, Florida, USA, February 4-8, 2006.

5. **V. Kostourou**, K. Takamiya, S. Adams, R. Haganir, R. Adams: "New roles of GRIP1 protein in embryonic development and adhesion". Gordon Research Conference in cell contact and adhesion, Andover, NH, USA, June 8-13, 2003.
6. **V. Kostourou**, S.P. Robinson, J.E. Cartwright, J.R. Griffiths and G.St. Whitley: "Dimethylarginine Dimethylaminohydrolase (DDAH1), a novel tumour promoting factor?" 92nd Annual Meeting of American Association for Cancer Research, Abs# 3878, New Orleans, LA, USA, March 24-28, 2001.
7. **V. Kostourou**, S.P. Robinson, J.E. Cartwright and G. StJ. Whitley. : "DDAH1, a novel tumour promoting factor?" Genes & Cancer, XVII meeting of UK Molecular Biology and Cancer Network, University of Warwick, UK, 11-13 December 2000.
8. **V. Kostourou**, S.P. Robinson, J.E. Cartwright, J.R. Griffiths and G. StJ. Whitley. : "Enhanced Tumour Growth and Angiogenesis with Overexpression of Dimethylarginine Dimethylaminohydrolase (DDAH1): an MGRE MRI study". 11th International Chemical Modifiers Conference, Tumor Physiology and Cancer Treatment, Abstr #39, Banff, Canada, 2000.
9. **V. Kostourou**, S.P. Robinson, J.E. Cartwright, J.R. Griffiths and G. StJ. Whitley. : "Enhanced Tumour Growth and Angiogenesis with Overexpression of Dimethylarginine Dimethylaminohydrolase (DDAH1): an MGRE MRI study". Workshop on MR in Experimental and Clinical Cancer Research in the New Millennium, Abstr: #21, Geiranger, Norway, 2000.
10. **V. Kostourou**, S.P. Robinson, J.E. Cartwright and G. StJ. Whitley.: " DDAH1, a novel tumour promoting factor?" *Nitric Oxide*, (2000), Vol. 4, No: 3, pp282. 1st International Conference of Biology, Chemistry and Therapeutic Applications of Nitric Oxide, Abst #237, San Francisco, California, USA, June 3-7 2000.

Member of scientific societies

Hellenic Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

British Biochemical Society

British Society of Cell and Developmental Biology

European Association for Cancer Research

Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine Alumni Society.

Collaborations

i) pharmaceutical industry

Merck : Novel targets for anti-cancer therapies

Regulon: Inhibitors of VEGFR2 for anti-angiogenic treatment

ii) Universities/Research institutes

Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute (ex ICRF): H. Gerhard, M.Way

Clinical Cancer Research UK, Dept of tumour biology: K. Hodivala-Dilke

University of Leicester, Dept of Biochemistry: S. Monkley, D. Critchley
Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London: M. Fruttiger
Max Plank Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried, Germany: R. Fassler
University of Patras, Laboratory of biomechanics and biomedical engineering: Y. Missirlis.
University of Patras, School of Biology: P. Katsoris.
University of Crete, Dept Mathematics: D. Manousaki
University of Crete, Dept Biology: G. Chalepakis
Biomedical Research Foundation of Academy of Athens: C. Zervas, D. Beis, C. Davos
National Hellenic Research Foundation: A. Pintzas
National Centre for Scientific Research Dimocritos: D. Vourloumis
Foundation of Research and Technology, Institute of applied and computational mathematics: E. Mylona