

Apostolos Galaris, Biologist

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Profile & Research Interests

Apostolos Galaris is a graduate of the Department of Biological Applications & Technologies of the School of Health of the University of Ioannina. He completed his thesis, lasting a total of two (2) academic semesters in the field of cancer biology and the discovery of new pharmaceutical protocols. This work took place at the Laboratory of Gene Regulation at the National Hellenic Research Foundation under the supervision of Researcher Alexandros Pintzas and was entitled "New synergistic protocols targeting oncoproteins and apoptosis". Then, he was a research associate in the laboratory of Mr. Aidinis at B.S.R.C. "Alexander Fleming" for the preliminary research to determine the possible role of Lcn2 in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. From July 2018 he continues in the same laboratory as a doctoral student (in collaboration with the Department of Medicine of the School of Health of the University of Ioannina). His research interests are in the fields of molecular and cell biology, immunology and biochemistry.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Diploma in Biological Applications & Technology (5-years study cycle, 300 ECTS)

9/2011-3/2017

Department of Biological Applications & Technology, University of Ioannina, Ioannina Greece.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Scholarship from the Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation (H.F.R.I.) lasting 36 months to finance the doctoral dissertation.
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PUBLICATIONS IN REFERRED SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

Magkrioti C., Galaris A., Kanellopoulou P., Stylianaki EA., Kaffe E., Aidinis V., Autotaxin and chronic inflammatory diseases., *Journal of Autoimmunity*, 2019, doi: 10.1016/j.jaut.2019.102327.

Perimenis P., Galaris A., Voulgari A., Prassa M., Pintzas A., *IAP antagonists Birinapant and AT-406 efficiently synergise with either TRAIL, BRAF, or BCL-2 inhibitors to sensitise BRAFV600E colorectal tumour cells to apoptosis*. In *BMC Cancer*, 2016, 16:624, doi: 10.1186/s12885-016-2606-5.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD student (07/2018-Today) at B.S.R.C. "Alexandros Fleming", Vari, Attica (collaboration with the Department of Medicine of the School of Health of the University of Ioannina) with the title of doctoral dissertation "Discovery of new genes involved in the pathophysiology of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis".

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Research visitor (01 /2018-07/2018) at B.S.R.C. "Alexandros Fleming", Vari, Attica in order to determine the possible role of Lcn2 in the pathogenesis of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. During this time I was trained in all the molecular techniques of the laboratory as well as in the use of experimental animals (*Mus musculus*) in the animal house of B.S.R.C. "Alexander Flenning" and the techniques of control of their lung function, owned by the laboratory (Flexivent, Control of molecular markers of pulmonary fibrosis).

Key achievements:

- Successful handling of laboratory animals and the bleomycin model to induce pulmonary fibrosis.
- Successful operation of the Flexivent machine for the control of the lung function of laboratory animals and the control of pulmonary fibrosis indicators.

Undergraduate Research Associate (10/2015–12/2016), at the Laboratory of Gene Regulation, Institute of Biology, Medical Chemistry and Biotechnology, National Research Foundation, Athens, Greece, under the supervision of Researcher Alexandros Pintzas. Thesis title: New synergistic protocols targeting oncoproteins and apoptosis.

The main purpose of this study was to test the ability of SMAC mimetics to synergize with the TRAIL apoptosis inducer in therapies against TRAIL-resistant cancer cell lines. The NOHA protein pathway, as well as the cell cycle, various molecules with potential anti-cancer activity, including SMAC mimetics and TRAIL, were also tested in colorectal cancer lines.

Key achievements:

- Successful treatment of colon cancer cell lines in cell culture and flow cytometry.
- Successful creation of protein and RNA extracts from cell populations.

PROFICIENCIES

Laboratory and Analytical techniques :	Cell culture, Western Blot, PCR, q-PCR, Confocal microscopy, Flow Cytometry, Manipulation of laboratory animals (<i>Mus musculus</i>), Modeling of pulmonary fibrosis using bleomycin, FlexiVent, Estimation of pulmonary fibrosis molecular markers
Language Skills:	English: Full professional proficiency (oral and written) Greek: Native proficiency
Computer skills:	Operating systems: Windows Ms Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint Other: PhotoShop, SigmaPlot, GraphPad, ImageStudio

CONFERENCES - POSTER PRESENTING

- 70th Conference of Hellenic Party of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Athens, Greece, 29/11-01/12 2019. "*Lipocalin 2, an iron homeostasis regulator with anti-microbial action, seems to have a role in the pathophysiology of Pulmonary Fibrosis*"
- 69th Conference of Hellenic Party of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Larisa, Greece, 23-25 November 2018, "*Lipocalin 2 (Lcn2) is upregulated in Bleomycin-induced Pulmonary Fibrosis in mice*".
- 1st Workshop on Targeted Drug Discovery, Athens, Greece, 10-14 October, 2016. Perimenis P., Galaris A., Voulgari A., Prassa M., Pintzas A., "*Recently developed SMAC mimetics in synergy with oncogene inhibitors and apoptosis agentsovercomeresistance of cancer cells to apoptosis*".

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- 66th Conference of Hellenic Party of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Athens, Greece, 13 December, 2015. Perimenis P., Galaris Ap., Voulgari A., Prassa M., Pintzas A., “Recently developed SMAC mimetics in synergy with oncogene inhibitors andapoptosis agents overcome resistance of cancer cells to apoptosis”.
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