

Vasiliki PLETSA

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Education

1991: Ph. D degree in Biological Sciences, Faculty of Biology, School of Sciences, National Kapodistrian University of Athens

1984: Bachelor's Degree (BSc), Faculty of Biology, School of Sciences, National Kapodistrian University of Athens

Appointments

2018-present: Senior Researcher, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Institute of Chemical Biology, Environment & Health Programme

2003-2018: Associate Researcher, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Institute of Biology, Medicinal Chemistry and Biotechnology, Chemical Carcinogenesis and Genetic Toxicology Programme

1995-2003: Functional Research Scientist, In charge of the development of the GMO Detection Laboratory of the Institute of Biological Research and Biotechnology of the National Hellenic Research Foundation.

1992-1995: Post doctoral Researcher, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Institute of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Chemical Carcinogenesis and Genetic Toxicology Programme

1991: Post doctoral Fellow (Fellowship by European Science Foundation, DNA Repair Network and C.N.R.S.), Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques C.N.R.S., Institut de Recherches Scientifiques sur le Cancer, Laboratoire de Genetique Moleculaire, Villejuif, France

Sabbatical Leaves

2004: six months sabbatical leave, Department of Toxicogenetics, Sylvius Laboratories, Leiden University Medical Center, Wassenaarseweg72, 2333AL Leiden, The Netherlands

Secondments

May 2008-May 2012: General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Education, International S&T Cooperation Directorate, European Union Division

Main tasks regarding the integration of the European Research Area, the Europe 2020 agenda as well as the Science & Technology issues in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Member of the Greek Delegation in the EU ERAC (European Research Area Committee)-High Level Groups GPC, SFIC and Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility.

Teaching experience

2019-present: "Oncology: from Oncogenesis to Therapy" interdepartmental postgraduate programme, Joint Master's Degree, University of Crete/National Hellenic Research Foundation.

2015-present: "Bioentrepreneurship" <http://bioepixirin.bio.uth.gr/>, interdepartmental, interdisciplinary postgraduate programme, Joint Master's Degree, University of Thessaly/National Hellenic Research Foundation. Member of the Interdepartmental and Coordination Committee.

Current Research Interests

- DNA damage response and mechanisms of cell death
- molecular mechanisms of carcinogenesis,
- molecular epidemiology of cancer, identification and validation of biomarkers for cancer prevention and early diagnosis
- nutrition and cancer

Current Research projects

- RESEARCH- CREATE-INNOVATE («ΕΡΕΥΝΩ - ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΩ - ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΩ») ESPA 2014-2020 National Programme: FUNGLUCAN 2018-2022_ "Development of a novel functional food enriched with β -glucans isolated from edible mushrooms of Greek habitats", (NHRF Principal Investigator, NHRF Budget: 330.000 euros).
- Participation in the national projects OSTEOME, MIA-Network of Precision Medicine in Oncology, STHENOS-B, RONTIS-B and the EU Joint Action on Networks of Expertise JANE (EU4H-2021-JA-IBA, co-ordinated by Prof. Casali, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori).

Publications in peer-reviewed journals

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0245-0083>

Book Chapters in collective volumes

1. T. Varzakas and V. Pletsa "Genetically Modified Herbicide-Tolerant Crops and Sugar Beet- Environmental and Health Concerns" Chapter in "Sweeteners: Nutritional Aspects, Applications, and Production Technology, published May 14, 2012 by CRC Press
2. A. Batrinou and V. Pletsa "Genetically modified foods. Do they threaten public health?", Chapter 25 in CLINICAL NUTRITION, www.betamedarts.gr
3. V. Pletsa "The Challenge of Genetically Modified Organisms" in "Nutrition in the 21st century", Papazisis eds, Athens 2005, <https://www.politeianet.gr/books/9789600218664-papazisis-i-diatrofi-ston-21o-aiona-178664>

Professional Activities

- Evaluator/Reviewer in National and EU Calls
- Member of the Hellenic Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HSBMB) and |Hellenic Scientific Society "MIKROBIOKOSMOS"
- Vice-President of the NHRF's Research Ethics Committee, http://www.eie.gr/ethics_committee_gr.html
- Science communication to the public, students and pupils regularly, within the frame of dedicated events (i.e. Researcher's Night, Science and Technology Festival, NHRF's Science & Society annual events; www.eie.gr/nhrf/institutes/ibmcb/index-en-ibcmb.html).

Committee membership

Member of the Hellenic Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HSBMB)
Member of the |Hellenic Scientific Society "MIKROBIOKOSMOS"