

CURRICULUM VITAE



Personal Information

Full Name: Sofia Balaska

Date of Birth: 21/07/1994 **Nationality:** Greek

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University Education

2019 - : Ph.D. Candidate, Molecular Entomology Laboratory, IMBB-FORTH, Greece

Thesis title: "Molecular analysis of insecticide resistance and biotechnology based approaches for insect- vector control".

Supervisor: Prof. J. Vontas, Pesticide Science Lab, Agricultural University of Athens & Molecular Entomology Lab, IMBB-FORTH, Greece

2017 - 2019: M.Sc. in Microbial Biotechnology, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (Grade: 9.76/10)

Thesis title: "Application of diagnostics for mosquito vector incrimination and innovative biotechnology-based methods for disease control". *Supervisor: Prof. J. Vontas, Pesticide Science Lab, Agricultural University of Athens & Molecular Entomology Lab, IMBB- FORTH, Greece*

2012 - 2016: B.Sc. in Biology, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (Grade: 8.55/10)

Thesis title: "NmeA, a novel efflux transporter specific for nucleobases and nucleosides, contributes to metal resistance in Aspergillus nidulans". *Supervisor: Prof. G. Diallinas, Molecular Biology & Genetics of Fungi Lab, Biology Dept., N.K.U.A., Greece.*

Erasmus+ Traineeship (February – August 2019): "Functional expression and characterization of Plasmodium falciparum Equilibrative Nucleoside Transporter 1 & Toxoplasma gondii Tg244440 transporter in a genetically adapted Trypanosoma brucei cell line". *Supervisor: Prof. H. de Koning, Molecular Parasitology Lab, Institute of Infection, Immunity & Inflammation, University of Glasgow, UK.*

Work Experience

Research activity (Contract for November 2019 – February 2020)

Project "The routes of the olive tree" - Agricultural University of Athens, Greece, Prof. J. Vontas; sponsored by the Greek General Secretariat for Research & Technology

Publications

- Balaska S.**, Fotakis E.A., Kioulos I., Chaskopoulou A., Vontas J., et al. "Analysis and distribution of insecticide resistance in *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes from Greece". In preparation
- Fotakis E.A., Apostolou- Giantsis I., Sierra J.C., Tanti F., **Balaska S.**, Mavridis K., Kourtidis S., Vontas J., Chaskopoulou A. (2019). "Fighting vector borne diseases in refugee camps, Greece: mosquito and sand fly population structure, pathogen circulation and insecticide resistance". *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*, accepted
- Gavriil E.S., Dimitrakis S., Papadaki G., Balaska S., Lambrinidis G., Lougiakis N., Marakos P., Diallinas G., Pouli N., Mikros E. (2018). "Structure-activity relationships in fungal nucleobases transporters as dissected by the inhibitory effects of novel purine analogues". *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* 156: 240-251

4. **Balaska S.**, Myriantopoulos V., Tselika M., Hatzinikolaou D.G., Mikros E., Diallinas G. (2017). "NmeA, a novel efflux transporter specific for nucleobases and nucleosides, contributes to metal resistance in *Aspergillus nidulans*". *Molecular Microbiology* 105: 426-439

Conferences

1. **S. Balaska**, D.G. Hatzinikolaou and G. Diallinas, 2016. "A novel efflux transporter of the Major Facilitator Superfamily specific for nucleobases and nucleosides contributes to *Aspergillus nidulans* resistance to cytotoxic- related metabolites and drugs". *67th Panhellenic Conference of the Hellenic Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Ioannina, Greece*: Poster
2. **S. Balaska** and G. Diallinas, 2016. "A novel transporter of the Major Facilitator Superfamily involved in the efflux of nucleobases and relative antifungal substances in *Aspergillus nidulans*". *38th Scientific Conference of the Hellenic Society of Biological Sciences, Kavala, Greece* : Oral presentation & Poster
3. **S. Balaska** and G. Diallinas, 2016. "A novel transporter of the Major Facilitator Superfamily involved in the efflux of nucleobases and relative antifungal substances in *Aspergillus nidulans*". *38th Scientific Conference of the Hellenic Society of Biological Sciences, Kavala, Greece* : Poster
4. **S. Balaska** and G. Diallinas, 2016. "A novel transporter of the Major Facilitator Superfamily in *Aspergillus nidulans* is specific for the efflux of nucleobases and nucleobase-related antifungals". *34th Small Meeting on Yeast Transport and Energetics, Chania, Greece* : Poster

Seminars - Courses

1. 1st European workshop on testing procedures for monitoring and managing insecticide resistance in invasive mosquitoes, co-organized by WIN, WHO & MiVEGEC, 18-22/11/2019, Montpellier, France
2. Molecular & Population Biology of Mosquitoes & other Disease Vectors, EMBO Workshop; 22-26/07/2019, Kolymbari, Chania, Greece
3. Migration in the European Context: Challenges for Public Health, Course co-organized by RUTGERS School of Public Health, USA & University of West Attica, School of Public Health, Greece, 27/05 - 31/05/2019
4. First Annual Conference on *Aedes* Invasive Mosquito COST ACTION (AIM-COST), 13-14/02/2019, Athens, Greece

Scholarships

M.Sc. in Microbial Biotechnology, Faculty of Biology, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens- 2017

Other

Languages: Greek (mother language), English (Certificate of Proficiency in English- 2009, IELTS- 2017), German (Goethe Zertifikat C1-2011)

Computer Skills: Sufficient knowledge of Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop Software, GraphPad Prism Software