

Constantina Koutsofti

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EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Sept 2013- **University of Cyprus**

June 2015 **MSc Biomedical Sciences**

- Modules included: Nucleic Acids, Cancer Biology, Tumor Virology, Epigenetics
- Research project on breast cancer resistance to drug Tamoxifen

Sept 2009- **University of Cyprus**

June 2013 **BSc Biological Sciences**

- Modules included: Cell Biology, Human Genetics, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry
- Research project on breast cancer resistance to drug Tamoxifen

Sept 2006- **Apostolos Marcos Lyceum, Nicosia, Cyprus**

June 2009 **Apolyterion**

- Advanced modules included: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

July 2015- **Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cyprus**

To date **Special Scientist at the Molecular Medicine Research Center (MMRC)**

- Receiving patients' biological samples from nephrologists
- Extracting DNA from blood or saliva samples of patients and healthy volunteers
- Carrying out genetic techniques used for the diagnosis of kidney diseases, such as PCR, DNA sequencing, digestion with restriction enzymes and fragment analysis
- Processing biological samples & responsible to store them in the Biobank of MMRC
- Developing knowledge around the Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) process
- Involved in research projects focused on the genetic basis of nephropathies

June 2012- **Cancer biology and Chemoprevention laboratory, University of Cyprus**

June 2015 **Researcher for the undergraduate/postgraduate dissertation**

- **Research Project Title:** "The combination of 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine and Genistein reverses Tamoxifen resistance in breast cancer cells"
 - **Molecular techniques used:** Mammalian cell culture, real-time PCR, western blotting, immunofluorescence, MTT method, Annexin V/PI assay, FACS analysis, ChIP assay
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PUBLICATIONS

- Papazachariou L, Papagregoriou G, Hadjipanagi D, Demosthenous P, Voskarides K, **Koutsofti C**, Stylianou K, Ioannou P, Xydakis D, Tzanakis I, Papadaki A, Kallivretakis N, Nikolakakis N, Perysinaki G, Gale DP, Diamantopoulos A, Goudas P, Goumenos D, Soloukides A, Boletis I, Melexopoulou C, Georgaki E, Frysira E, Komianou F, Grekas D, Paliouras C, Alivanis P, Vergoulas G, Pierides A, Daphnis E, Deltas C. (2017) "Frequent COL4 mutations in familial microhematuria accompanied by later-onset Alport nephropathy due to focal segmental glomerulosclerosis", *Clinical Genetics*
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LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

June 2015- **The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics**

July 2015 **Placement at the Electron Microscopy and Molecular Pathology Department**

- Involved in genetic techniques used for the diagnosis of familial breast and colorectal cancer (e.g. PCR method and DNA sequencing)
- Developed knowledge around the biopsy specimen's diagnosis in the electron microscope and applications of mass spectrometry

June 2012- **Nicosia General Hospital, Cyprus**

July 2012 **Placement at the Hematology Laboratory**

- Participated in the daily activities of the Hematology Laboratory, including full blood count (FBC) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)
- Developed knowledge around blood diseases, such as leukemia

May 2012- **Nicosia General Hospital, Cyprus**

June 2012 **Placement at the Histopathology Laboratory**

- Involved in various routine practices of the Histopathology Laboratory, including biopsy process, real-time PCR analysis, histochemistry and immunohistochemistry
 - Responsibilities entailed the execution of biopsy process
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HONORS AND AWARDS

- Awarded with the third national prize for my postgraduate research at the competition "Master Students in Research 2014-2015" of the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation in December 2015
 - Awarded by the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences of the University of Cyprus for my research and academic performance (highest overall mark) in the MSc programme in June 2015
 - Awarded as the high school student with the highest-grade point average in 2007 and 2009
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POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- **Koutsofti C**, Pitta CA, Constantinou AI. “The combination of 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine and Genistein reverses Tamoxifen resistance in breast cancer cells” at a conference called “Research and Innovation: Research Activities of the Department of Biological Sciences of the University of Cyprus” in Nicosia, Cyprus in May 2015
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CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

- Participated in the seminar namely “Genetics, Inheritance and Innovative Therapies for children for cancer and leukaemia” organised by the Elpida Foundation in Nicosia, Cyprus in February 2018
 - Participated in the 6th International Conference of the Cyprus Society of Human Genetics in Nicosia, Cyprus in November 2017
 - Represented the Molecular Medicine Research Centre (MMRC) of the University of Cyprus at the Researchers’ Night of the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation in Nicosia, Cyprus in September 2016
 - Represented the MMRC at the Mediterranean Science Festival in Limassol, Cyprus in December 2015
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ADDITIONAL COURSES

- Attended an online course namely “Stem cells and Regenerative Medicine” of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens from December 2018 to February 2019
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ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- **Languages:** Greek (native), English (very good), French (DELFL B1)
 - **IT:** MS Word, Excel, Power Point
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