

Despoina-Maria Varouchaki

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I am a MSc Chemist, member of the Greek Union of Chemists, with research interests in the field of Medicinal Organic Synthesis. Through my laboratory and research experience to date, I have learned to tackle every obstacle with dedicated study, methodical approach, and precision in work, while also fostering a spirit of collaboration and a strong sense of responsibility.

EDUCATION

February 2024-May 2024

Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Chemistry and Technology of Drug, Piazza Aldo Moro 5, 00185

Erasmus+ Placement, Laboratory team of Prof. and Rector of UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome, Botta Bruno

November 2021- November 2023

University of Patras, Department of Chemistry, 26504, Rio

M.Sc. in "Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology" (Grade: 9.39/10, Excellent)

October 2017- July 2021

University of Patras, Department of Chemistry, 26504, Rio

B.Sc. in Chemistry (Grade: 7.97/10, Very Good)

Teaching Proficiency Acquisition

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022

University of Patras, Department of Chemistry, 26504, Rio

Supplementary teaching sessions, in addition to main lectures, for the academic year 2021-2022 for the course "**Heterocyclic Compounds and Biomolecules**" of the 2nd year of studies.

- Structuring courses in consultation with course instructors, focusing on key points and common student misconceptions
- Presentation of fundamental theory elements, solving examples and exercises
- Addressing student inquiries from main lectures and supplementary classes
- Delivery of additional exercises to students and grading written assignments

Laboratory teaching assistant regarding the course of “Organic Chemistry of functioning groups”.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2024

Research laboratory work: "Design and Synthesis of Polyamines for the delivery of oligonucleotides."

Supervisor: Prof.ssa. Deborah Quaglio, Sapienza University of Rome

2023

Research thesis: "Design and synthesis of analogs and conjugates of Combretastatin A-4 (CA-4) with potential anticancer activity."

Supervisor: Prof. Constantinos M. Athanassopoulos, University of Patras

2021

Research thesis: "Synthesis of 10-aza-analogues of artemisinin bearing piperazine and morpholine rings."

Supervisor: Prof. Constantinos M. Athanassopoulos, University of Patras

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2024

Certification in Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Through the Implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs).

2023

1. "Training School on drug discovery and chemoresistance in Cholangiocarcinoma", COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology – European Cholangiocarcinoma Network, University of Patras, 1-2 June 2023 (Organizing Committee)
2. Conference "The Importance of Accurate Diagnosis and Classification of Cholangiocarcinoma", COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology – European Cholangiocarcinoma Network, Sapienza University of Rome, 8-9 June 2023
3. Conference "Best Practices in hit-to-lead Optimization", 16th EFMC-YSN MedChemBioOnline, 26 September 2023

2022

Summer School "Athens Summer School on Organic Synthesis (ASSOS2022) and 2nd International Young Investigator Symposium", Event organized by the Department of Chemistry of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, July 7-9, 2022

2021

1. Online Seminar: "SARS Covid-19: Scientific Challenges and Developments", Event hosted by the Regional Department of Peloponnese and Western Greece of the Union of Greek Chemists in collaboration with the Scientific Department of Drugs, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Cosmetics
2. Online Workshop: "How to get published: Tips for Chemistry Journals" (Event organized by Wiley publishing house)

2020

Online Workshop: "CRISPR/Cas9: everything you need to know", Event organized by Jong-KVCV, KVCV, and European Chemical Society.

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- State Scholarships Foundation (IKY): "Financial Support Program for Carefully Selected Students Belonging to Vulnerable Social Groups (VSGs)" for the year 2018-2019, due to outstanding performance in the second year of bachelor studies.
- Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE) of the University of Patras: Full Scholarship within the framework of the project "Support of educational activities of the University of Patras through the integration of supplementary teaching in addition to main lectures for the academic year 2021-

2022" for the course "Heterocyclic Compounds and Biomolecules" of the 2nd year of bachelor studies.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- English: C2 level (ECPE)
- French: C1 level (Sorbonne)

COMPUTER SKILLS

International Diploma in IT Skills Proficiency (Cambridge)

- Proficient in database management using Access, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations, Word processing, and internet services (Outlook, web design).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022

Teaching courses on Heterocyclic Compounds and Biomolecules to second-year students of the Chemistry Department at the University of Patras

2018-2021

Private tutoring in Chemistry for high school students in 11th and 12th grades

ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

2023

Member of the Young Investigator Group of EURO-CHOLANGIO-NET Cost Action

Athens, 12/07/24