

Applicant name: Christina Dalla



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Christina Dalla, PhD

NAME Christina Dalla	POSITION TITLE Assistant Professor of Psychopharmacology, Dep. of Pharmacology, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
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EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece	BSc, 7.8/10 (graduated 2 nd in my class)	1995-2000	Pharmacy (5 year training)
Dep. of Pharmacology, Medical School National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece	PhD, Excellent	2001-2005	Psychopharmacology (Sex differences in models of depression)
GIGA Neurosciences, University of Liege, part of EURON, Liege, Belgium	Part of PhD (Marie Curie fellowship)	2001-2002	Beh. Neuroendocrinology (Estrogen effects on behavior)
Dep. of Psychology and Center of Neurosciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA	Post-doctoral training (Marie Curie fellowship)	2005-2008	Neurosciences (Sex differences in learning, stress and neuroplasticity)

A. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

POSITIONS HELD

- 2000-2001 and 2003-2005: Research assistant as PhD student at the Dep. of Pharmacology in the Medical School, University of Athens, Greece, in collaboration with the Institute of Radiosotopes, Radiodiagnostic Products and Institute of Material Science, NSCR "Demokritos", Athens, Greece. Participation in research grants funded by the General Secretariat of Research and Technology in Greece (PI: Prof. Z. Papadopoulou-Daifoti) and the IKYDA program in collaboration with Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry (co-PI: Dr. O.F.X. Almeida).
- 2005-2008: Post-doctoral fellow at the Laboratory of Prof. Tracey Shors, Department of Psychology and Center of Neurosciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA. Participation in NIH research grants and Outgoing phase of the Marie Curie Outgoing Fellowship, FP6/EU.
- 2008-2009: Post-doctoral fellow at the Dep. of Pharmacology in the Medical School, University of Athens, Greece. Return phase of the Marie Curie Outgoing Fellowship, FP6/EU.
- 2009-2013: Lecturer at the Dep. of Pharmacology, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.
- 2011: Visiting scientist at the ICVS Institute of Prof. Nuno Sousa, School of Health Sciences at the University of Minho in Portugal, under the bilateral educational program between Greece and Portugal, funded by the Greek Ministry of Education.
- 2013-now: Assistant Professor of Psychopharmacology, Dep. of Pharmacology, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.

ADVISORY-ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

- General Secretary and President-elect of the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences (2015-2017).
- Founding member and Treasurer of the Institute of Biology and Medicine of Stress (2015).
- Treasurer of the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences (2013-2015).

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- Member of the European DANA alliance for the brain (EDAB), upon nomination (since 2012).
- Member of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), since 2013 and member of the ECNP Preclinical Data Forum Network, since 2015.
- External evaluator/committee member at the National Organization for Medicines (EOF) in Greece, since 2016.
- Referee for the evaluation of research grants for the Innovative Medicine Initiative (IMI)/European Union with EFPIA actions (2015 review panel and remotely), COST/ European Union actions (remotely 2013-2014), the Polish National Science Center (remotely 2015), the Irish “Health Research Board” remotely 2016), the Cohens Veterans Biosciences (USA, 2017 review panel and remotely) and the General Secretariat of Research and Development of the Greek Ministry of Education (remotely 2013-2015).
- Member of the Review Editorial board: Frontiers in Psychopharmacology, Frontiers in Beh. Pharmacology, Hormones and Behavior.
- Reviewer for Physiology and Behavior, European Neuropsychopharmacology, Brain Research, BMC Neurosciences, Stress, Pharmacol. Biochemistry & Behavior, Behavioral and Brain Functions, J. of Neuroendocrinology, Int. Journal of Psychopharmacology, Neuropharmacology, Mol. Psychiatry, Biology Letters, Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology, Psychopharmacology, Neuroscience, Neuroscience Letters, Neuropsychopharmacology.
- Member of the organizing committees at the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience meetings in 2012, 2013 and 2017 and in the “Brain Awareness week” in Athens from 2011 to 2017.
- Member of the organizing committee of the daily workshop entitled: “Leadership skills in academic science” for Greek Women in Academia at the Medical School of Athens, 2015.
- Member of the organizing committee of the 1st and 2nd meetings of the Institute of Biology and Medicine of Stress, Athens, 2015 and 2016.
- Member of the organizing committee of the 2nd World Congress of Early Career Psychiatrist’s, World Association of Psychiatry, Athens, 2016.

B. RESEARCH INTERESTS

Our research team aims to contribute to the field of psychopharmacology, by shedding further light onto sex differences in animal models of affective neurosciences. During my PhD studies in Athens, we validated animal models of depression for female rats. In the University of Liege, we demonstrated that only female- and not male- aromatase knockout, estrogen deprived, mice exhibited depressive behavior and enhanced serotonergic activity. Later, a Marie Curie Outgoing fellowship allowed me to join the Rutgers University, where we showed that Pavlovian learning enhances neurogenesis in the hippocampus of male and female rats. In addition, we continued our work on the validation of female animal models of depression. This work has provided strong foundation for our group in Athens, to focus on identifying new targets for antidepressant treatments. Our work on female rats recently led to the discovery that aromatase inhibitors, used in cancer therapy, exert mood effects. Additionally, our recent data strongly suggest that the thalamic reuniens may be a promising target for antidepressant therapies. Our ultimate objective is to deliver more effective and faster-acting antidepressant treatments by targeting neurosteroids, such as neuroestrogens. Towards this aim, our group is also involved in human studies. Furthermore, we have participated in several collaborative projects on animal models of Alzheimer’s disease, pharmacological screening of new CNS-molecules, as well as neurochemical studies in fish and birds. Overall, our work on sex differences has been recognized in the field, as shown by invited publications and talks.

C. Selected peer-reviewed publications.

Peer reviewed publications (originals and reviews): 45, Book chapters: 8

Citations: 2127, h-index = 24 (Source: Google Scholar)

1. V. Kafetzopoulos, N. Kokras, J.F. Oliveira, I. Sotiropoulos, H. Leite-Almeida, A. Vassalou, V. M. Sardinha, O. F. X. Almeida, Z. Papadopoulou-Daifoti, K. Antoniou, N. Sousa and **C. Dalla** "The nucleus reuniens: a key node in the neurocircuitry of depression". *Molecular Psychiatry*, in press.
2. N. Kokras, A. Polissidis, K. Antoniou and **C. Dalla**, "Head shaking in the rat forced swim test of antidepressant activity: a robust but unexplored sex difference". *Pharmacology Biochemistry & Behavior, Special Issue on Sex Differences*, in press.
3. N. Kokras, K. Antoniou, H. G. Mikail, V. Kafetzopoulos, Z. Papadopoulou-Daifoti and **C. Dalla**. (2015), "Forced swim test: what about females?", *Neuropharmacology*, 99:408-421.
4. N. Kokras and **C. Dalla** (2014) "Sex differences in animal models of psychiatric disorders". *British Journal of Pharmacology*. 171(20):4595-619. *Invited Review*.
5. N. Kokras, N. Pastromas, T. H. Porto, V. Kafetzopoulos, T. Mavridis and **C. Dalla**. (2014) "Acute but not sustained aromatase inhibition displays antidepressant properties", *International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology*, 17(8):1307-13.
6. **C. Dalla**, P. M. Pitychoutis, N. Kokras and Z. Papadopoulou-Daifoti (2010) "Sex differences in the neurobiological substrate of depression and in antidepressant response". *Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology*., 106, 226-33, *Invited Review*.
7. **C. Dalla**, E. B. Papachristos, A. S. Whetstone and T. J. Shors, (2009) "Females learn trace memories better than males and consequently retain a greater proportion of new neurons in their hippocampi". *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 24; 106, 8, 2927-32.
8. **C. Dalla** and T. J. Shors. (2009) "Sex differences in processes of learning". *Physiology and Behavior*, 97, 229-238, *Invited Review on a Special Issue on Sex Differences*.
9. **C. Dalla**, C. Edgecomb, A. S. Whetstone and T. J. Shors (2008) "Females do not express learned helplessness, as do males." *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 33, 7, 1559-69.
10. **C. Dalla**, K. Antoniou, G. Drossopoulou, M. Xagoraris, N. Kokras, A. Sfikakis, and Z. Papadopoulou-Daifoti (2005) "Chronic mild stress impact: Are females more vulnerable?" *Neuroscience*, 135(3):703-14.