

Personal details

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Current positions

Assistant Professor in Rheumatology-Clinical Immunology, University of Crete (UoC), Medical School

Staff Rheumatologist, Department of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology and Allergy, University Hospital of Iraklio

- Board certified in Rheumatology and Internal Medicine
- Inpatients (20 beds) – Infusion day Unit
- Consultations
- In charge of the Connective Tissue Diseases / SLE clinic

Group Leader, Laboratory of Rheumatology, Autoimmunity and Inflammation, UoC, Medical School

Affiliated Faculty Member, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB), Foundation of Research Technology Heraklion (FORTH), Iraklio, Greece

Previous positions / education

- 2016 **Tenure-track Assist. Professor in Rheumatology-Clinical Immunology**, UoC, Medical School
- 2014 **Lecturer in Rheumatology-Clinical Immunology**, UoC, Medical School
- 2013 **Post-doc fellow** (IKY-Siemens “Excellence” program)
- 2012 **Post-doc fellow** (FP7-TransPOT: Building Excellence in Translational Medical Research), UoC, Medical School
- 2012 **Staff physician and trainee in Rheumatology**, Department of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology, University Hospital of Iraklio
- 2011 **Fellowship**, National Institutes of Health, Arthritis & Rheumatism Branch (NIAMS) and Inflammatory Diseases Section, Genetics and Genomics Branch, Human Genome Institute (NHGRI), Bethesda (MD)
- 2011 Trainee in Internal Medicine and in Rheumatology, University Hospital of Iraklio
- 2009 **Ph.D.** (thesis title: “*Expression of PD-1 and its ligands in human tissues and animals and its role in immune tolerance*”), *Cum Laude*, UoC
- 2006 **Master’s degree** (M.Sc.) Graduate Program “Molecular Basis of Human Disease”, *Cum Laude*, UoC, Medical School
- 2004 Internship, Primary Care Service (General Hospital of Sitia, Sitia)
- 2002 **Medical Degree**, UoC, *Cum Laude*

Awards – scholarships – distinctions

- 2013 Hellenic State Scholarships Foundation: Post-doctoral “Excellence” (ARISTEIA-Siemens) Scholarship
- 2010 60th Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, 2010 - 3rd Interdisciplinary Meeting (Nominated by the “A. Onassis” Foundation)
- 2006 “A. Onassis” Foundation scholarship (G-ZB 051/2005-2006)

- 2004 Graduate Program “Molecular basis of Human Disease” Fellowship
- 2004 “M. Manasaki” Foundation scholarship for graduate studies
- 2002 Award (*GlaxoSmithKline*) for graduating 1st among 100 medical students

Main research activities

- 2012- **Principal Investigator**, Laboratory of Rheumatology, Autoimmunity and Inflammation, UoC, Medical School
Research interests: regulation of T- and B-cell immune responses through costimulatory receptors, gene expression and regulation in autoimmunity (high throughput genomics)
- 2012- **Principal Investigator**, Department of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology and Allergy, University Hospital of Iraklio
Research interests: epidemiology/diagnosis, treatment, comorbidities and outcomes in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) including neuropsychiatric and renal SLE
- 2012- **Scientific Coordinator of the “Leto” Cretan SLE Registry**, Department of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology and Allergy (University Hospital of Iraklio and UoCSM)
Description: Archiving of medical records (>1,100 patients), development of electronic health records for monitoring patients with SLE and other connective tissue diseases; bio-repository database to
- 2013- **Member of the International Task Force** of “Treat-to-Target” in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)
- 2005- **Member and Facilitator** of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) Study Group on SLE
Projects: EULAR recommendations for the management of SLE (2005), Neuropsychiatric SLE (2008), Lupus nephritis (2012), Family planning and pregnancy in SLE (2014), Update of the recommendations for the management of SLE (2019), Update of the recommendations for the management of Lupus Nephritis (2019)
- 2002 *Research fellow*, Diabetes & Endocrinology Unit, Department of Medicine, Boston University Medical Center (USA), Director: N. Ruderman, DPhil

Postgraduate teaching-supervision

- 2017- **Graduate Program “Vaccinations and Immunology”**, UoC, Medical School (Department of Pediatrics)
Teaching: “Vaccines and immunotherapies for autoimmune diseases”
- 2015- **Supervision of Ph.D. candidates** (MDs and biologists conducting clinical or basic/translational research)
Main supervisor for six (6) candidates; co-supervisor for 8 candidates
- 2015- **Supervision of M.Sc. candidates** (MDs and biologists)
Main supervisor for six (7) candidates; co-supervisor for 13 candidates
- 2012- **Affiliated member and PI, Graduate Program “Molecular Biology and Biomedicine”** (MBB), Departments of Biology & Medicine, UoC
Teaching: course MBB-1405 (“Multicellular life organization”)
Supervision of graduate students (advanced lab rotation, M.Sc. thesis)

2011- **Affiliated member and PI, Graduate Program “Molecular Basis of Human Diseases”**, UoC, Medical School
Course coordinator: course MBD-108 (“Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Clinical Methodology”)
Teaching: courses MBD-105 (“Basic Immunology”), MBD-108
Supervision of graduate students (advanced lab rotation, M.Sc. thesis)

Undergraduate teaching

2015- Class “Basic Immunology” (2nd-yr medical students)
 2014- History and clinical examination skills (3rd-yr medical students)
 2013- Clinical training – Internal Medicine class (5th-yr medical students)
 2013- Class “Assessment of common clinical presentations” (Arthritis)
 2010- Class “Pathophysiology: A” (Rheumatology-Clinical Immunology)
 2010- Class “Internal Medicine: C” (Rheumatology-Clinical Immunology)
 2005- Class “Epidemiology/Public Health”

Administrative and organizational work

2017- *Deputy Director*, Graduate Program “Molecular Biology-Biotechnology” (Departments of Biology and Medical School, UoC)
 2017- *Coordinator*, Career & Alumni Committee, Medical School, UoC
 2015- *Co-organizer* of the 1st (Athens, 07-08/12/2015) and 2nd Lupus School Meeting (Athens, 01-02/12/2017).
 Jointly organized by the Departments of Rheumatology, “Attikon” University Hospital of Athens and University Hospital of Iraklio
 2015- *Coordinator* of the Graduate Course MDB108 “Biostatistics, Clinical Methodology and Epidemiology” (Graduate Program “Molecular Basis of Human Diseases”, UoCSM)
 2015- *Member*, Undergraduate Studies Committee, UoCSM
 2014 *Member*, Safety Committee, UoCSM (period 2014-2015)
 2014- *Member*, Steering Committee of the Graduate Program “Molecular Basis of Human Diseases”, UoCSM
 2014 *Co-organizer*, 9th European Lupus Meeting (Athens, 21-23/04/2014)
 2012- *Facilitator*, EULAR Study Group on SLE

Extramural professional activities

- **Member of the Editorial Board of scientific journals:** *Lupus Science and Medicine*, *Frontiers in Medicine*, *Clinical Immunology*; *RMD Open*, *Med J of Rheumatology*
- **Ad hoc reviewer** (>10 medical Journals in the field of Rheumatology)
- **EULAR-accredited Clinical Methodologist** (support/participation in the design and implementation of EULAR-endorsed clinical recommendations)
- **Research proposals reviewer** (South African Medical Research Council, United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation, Romanian Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, Italian Foundation for the Research on Arthritis, Montenegro Ministry of Science, Icelandic Research Fund, UK MRCP)
- **Member of the International Scientific Advisory Board**, NOVARTIS Trial of Secukinumab in Active Lupus Nephritis
- **International Scientific Committee:** European Lupus Meeting (biannual meeting), Crete-Cyprus Rheumatology Meeting (annual meeting, 2010-onwards)

- **Invitations to international meetings** (as speaker, chair, poster tour leader)
- **Invitations to Greek meetings** (as speaker, chair)

Research grants/funding	2020	<u>Project coordinator – Principal investigator</u> Fondation Sante Foundation. Title: “Interferon-induced metabolic perturbations shape the epigenetic landscape and inflammatory status of human monocytes: implications for autoimmunity” (budget: € 25,000)
	2020	<u>Project coordinator – Principal investigator</u> Hellenic Rheumatology Society grant. Title: “Pilot Registry of Biologics in Greek SLE patients” (budget: € 6,000)
	2019	<u>Project coordinator – Principal investigator</u> Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.F.I.) grant. Title: “Deciphering the molecular basis of sexual dimorphism in autoimmunity using lupus as a disease model: the role of cohesin complex protein SMC1A” (budget: € 200,000)
	2017	<u>Project coordinator – Principal investigator</u> FOREUM (Foundation for Research in Rheumatology) grant. Title: “A prediction score for individuals at risk for SLE by integrating clinical, serologic and transcriptomic data” (budget: € 400,000)
	2017	<u>Project coordinator – Principal investigator</u> Hellenic Rheumatology Society grant. Title: “Comparative analysis of the SLE classification criteria” (budget: € 7,000)
	2017	<u>Co-investigator</u> H2020 – SYSCID project. Title: “A Systems medicine approach to chronic inflammatory diseases” – Coordinator: Prof. Philip Rosenstiel (Institute of Clinical Molecular Biology, University Kiel, Germany)
	2016	<u>Principal investigator</u> UoC Research Account (ELKE) Grant. Title: “The role of interleukin-33 in modulation of plasmacytoid dendritic cell function and generation of pathogenic immune responses in SLE” (budget: € 10,000)
	2015	<u>Co-investigator</u> FOREUM Grant. Title: “Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) in Peripheral Blood and Hematopoietic Stem Cells in SLE” (budget: € 60,000)
	2015	<u>Co-investigator</u> GSK unrestricted grant for basic/translational research [through the UoC Research Account] (total budget: € 15,000)
	2015	<u>Principal investigator</u> UoC Research Account (ELKE) Small Grant. Title: “The role of costimulatory receptors HVEM/BTLA in pathogenesis of B-cell memory and plasma cell responses in systemic lupus erythematosus” (budget: € 1,500)
	2012	<u>Co-investigator (WPs 4,5,7)</u> «ΑΡΙΣΤΕΙΑ Ι» Research Fund - General Secretariat for Research and Technology (Greece, 2007-2013). Title: “Investigation of the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases using SLE as prototype with the aim to develop targeted therapies» - Coordinator: Prof. D. Boumpas (IMBB-FORTH)
	2011	<u>Principal investigator</u> Hellenic Rheumatology Society grant. Title: “The role of autophagy in the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus in patients and experimental animal models” (budget: € 4,000)
	2011	<u>Principal investigator</u> Hellenic Rheumatology Society grant. Title: “Validation of the EULAR recommendations for the diagnosis of neuropsychiatric lupus: a prospective study” (budget: € 7,000)

Published work

- PubMed articles: 107
- Editorials: 4
- Book chapters: 8
- Meeting abstracts: >80 (abstracts, oral presentations)

Bibliometrics

- H-index: 32
- Citations: 3,912

Selected publications (chronological order)

1. Combined genetic and transcriptome analysis of patients with SLE: distinct, targetable signatures for susceptibility and severity. Panousis NI*, **Bertsias GK***, Ongen H, ..., Dermitzakis ET, Boumpas DT. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2019. doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2018-214379.
2. 2019 update of the EULAR recommendations for the management of systemic lupus erythematosus. Fanouriakis A, Kostopoulou M, Alunno A, ..., van Vollenhoven R, Wenzel J, **Bertsias G**, Boumpas DT. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2019; 78(6):736-745.
3. Changing paradigms in the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus. Fanouriakis A, Bertsias G. *Lupus Sci Med*. 2019; 6(1):e000310.
4. IFN α impairs autophagic degradation and promotes SLE monocytes autoreactivity through cell-autonomous mtDNA sensing. Gkirtzimanaki K, Kabrani E, Polyzos A, Blanas A, Sidiropoulos P, **Bertsias G**, Boumpas DT, Verginis P. *Cell Rep*. 2018; 25(4):921-933
5. Epidemiology and burden of systemic lupus erythematosus in a Southern European population: data from the community-based lupus registry of Crete, Greece. Gergianaki I, Fanouriakis A, Repa A, ..., **Bertsias GK**. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2017; 76(12):1992-2000
6. Validity of the Italian algorithm for the attribution of neuropsychiatric events in systemic lupus erythematosus: a retrospective multicentre international diagnostic cohort study. Bortoluzzi A, Fanouriakis A, Appenzeller S, Costallat L, Scirè CA, Murphy E, **Bertsias G**, Hanly J, Govoni M. *BMJ Open*. 2017; 7(5):e015546
7. Performance of Anti-nuclear Antibodies for Classifying Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: a Systematic Literature Review and Meta-regression of Diagnostic Data. Leuchten N, Hoyer A, Brinks R, ..., **Bertsias G**. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2017. doi: 10.1002/acr.23292. [ahead of print]
8. EULAR recommendations for women's health and the management of family planning, assisted reproduction, pregnancy and menopause in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and/or antiphospholipid syndrome. Andreoli L*, **Bertsias GK***, Agmon-Levin N, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2017; 76: 476-485
9. Neuropsychiatric lupus or not? Cerebral hypoperfusion by perfusion-weighted MRI in normal-appearing white matter in primary neuropsychiatric lupus erythematosus. Papadaki E, Fanouriakis A, Kavroulakis E, Karageorgou D, Sidiropoulos P, **Bertsias G**, Simos P, Boumpas DT. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2017 doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2017-212285. [ahead of print]
10. A framework for remission in SLE: consensus findings from a large international task force on definitions of remission in SLE (DORIS). van Vollenhoven R, Voskuyl A, **Bertsias G**, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2017; 76: 554-561
11. Neutrophil extracellular traps exacerbate Th1-mediated autoimmune responses in rheumatoid arthritis by promoting DC maturation. Papadaki G, Kambas K, Choulaki C, Vlachou K, Drakos E, **Bertsias G**, Ritis K, Boumpas DT, Thompson PR, Verginis P, Sidiropoulos P. *Eur J Immunol*. 2016; 46(11): 2542-2554.
12. Micro-RNA analysis of renal biopsies in human lupus nephritis demonstrates up-regulated miR-422a driving reduction of kallikrein-related peptidase 4. Krasoudaki E, Banos A, Stagakis E, ..., **Bertsias GK**. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2016; 31: 1676-86
13. Clinical and financial burden of active lupus in Greece: a nationwide study. **Bertsias G**, Karampli E, Sidiropoulos P, et al. *Lupus*. 2016; 25: 1385-94
14. Elimination of Granulocytic Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells in Lupus-Prone Mice Linked to Reactive Oxygen Species-Dependent Extracellular Trap Formation. Vlachou K, Mintzas K, Glymenaki M, Ioannou M, Papadaki G, **Bertsias GK**, Sidiropoulos P, Boumpas DT, Verginis P. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2016; 68: 449-61.
15. Enhanced activity of NLRP3 inflammasome in peripheral blood cells of patients with active rheumatoid arthritis. Choulaki C, Papadaki G, Repa A, Kampouraki E, Kambas K, Ritis K, **Bertsias G**, Boumpas DT, Sidiropoulos P. *Arthritis Res Ther*. 2015; 17: 257.
16. Treat-to-target in systemic lupus erythematosus: recommendations from an international task force. van Vollenhoven RF, Mosca M, **Bertsias G**, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2014; 73: 958-67
17. Genome-wide association analysis identifies new susceptibility loci for Behçet's disease and epistasis between HLAB*51 and ERAP1. Kirino Y*, **Bertsias G***, Ishigatubo Y, et al. *Nat Genet*. 2013; 45(2): 202-7
18. Diagnostic criteria for systemic lupus erythematosus: has the time come? **Bertsias GK**, et al. *Nat Rev Rheumatol*. 2013; 9: 687-94

19. Gene expression and regulation in systemic lupus erythematosus. Frangou EA, **Bertsias GK**, et al. *Eur J Clin Invest*. 2013; 43: 1084-96.
20. Interleukin-21 is increased in active systemic lupus erythematosus patients and contributes to the generation of plasma B cells. Nakou M, Papadimitraki ED, Fanourakis A, **Bertsias GK**, Choulaki C, Goulidaki N, Sidiropoulos P, Boumpas DT. *Clin Exp Rheumatol*. 2013 Mar-Apr;31(2):172-9.
21. Joint European League Against Rheumatism and European Renal Association-European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EULAR/ERA-EDTA) recommendations for the management of adult and paediatric lupus nephritis. **Bertsias GK**, Tektonidou M, Amoura Z, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2012; 71(11):1771-82
22. Identification of novel micro-RNA signatures linked to human lupus disease activity and pathogenesis: miR-21 regulates aberrant T responses through regulation of PDCD4 expression. Stagakis E*, **Bertsias G***, Verginis P, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2011; 70(8):1496-506
23. A common SNP in the CD40 region is associated with systemic lupus erythematosus and correlates with altered CD40 expression: implications for the pathogenesis. Vazgiourakis VM, Zervou MI, Choulaki C, **Bertsias G**, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2011; 70(12):2184-90
24. Gene network analysis of bone marrow mononuclear cells reveals activation of multiple kinase pathways in human systemic lupus erythematosus. Nakou M*, **Bertsias G***, Stagakis I, et al. *PLoS One*. 2010; 5(10):e13351
25. Early treatment with glucocorticoids or cyclophosphamide retains the slit diaphragm proteins nephrin and podocin in experimental lupus nephritis. Moysiadis DK, Perysinaki GS, **Bertsias G**, et al. *Lupus*. 2012;21(11):1196-207
26. Anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy improves insulin resistance, beta cell function and insulin signaling in active rheumatoid arthritis patients with high insulin resistance. Stagakis I, **Bertsias G**, Karvounaris S, et al. *Arthritis Res Ther*. 2012;14(3):R141
27. Genetic, immunologic, and immunohistochemical analysis of the programmed death 1/programmed death ligand 1 pathway in human systemic lupus erythematosus. **Bertsias GK**, Nakou M, Choulaki C, et al. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2009; 60(1): 207-18
28. The programmed death 1/programmed death ligand 1 inhibitory pathway is up-regulated in rheumatoid synovium and regulates peripheral T cell responses in human and murine arthritis. Raptopoulou AP*, **Bertsias G***, Makrygiannakis D, et al. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2010; 62(7):1870-80
29. EULAR recommendations for the management of systemic lupus erythematosus with neuropsychiatric manifestations: report of a task force of the EULAR standing committee for clinical affairs. **Bertsias GK**, Ioannidis JP, Aringer M, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2010; 69(12):2074-82
30. Pathogenesis, diagnosis and management of neuropsychiatric SLE manifestations. **Bertsias GK**, Boumpas DT. *Nat Rev Rheumatol*. 2010; 6(6):358-67
31. EULAR recommendations for the management of systemic lupus erythematosus. Report of a Task Force of the EULAR Standing Committee for International Clinical Studies Including Therapeutics. **Bertsias G**, Ioannidis JP, Boletis J, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2008; 67(2):195-205
32. Therapeutic opportunities in systemic lupus erythematosus: state of the art and prospects for the new decade. **Bertsias GK**, Salmon JE, Boumpas DT. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2010; 69(9):1603-11