

SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE

First Name	AIKATERINI
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Education	
2016-2020	Keele University- School of Life Sciences PhD Candidate (Fully funded by the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Keele University) PhD project: Investigation into the role of long non-coding RNAs in neuroblastoma and glioma.
2014-2015	University of Nottingham – Medical School MSc Oncology (Distinction, MSc Oncology Student of the year 2014-2015) MSc Research Project: Detection of H3 mutational status in paediatric HGG and validation of affinity purified antibodies as novel diagnostic tools.
2010-2014	University of Crete-Department of Biology (2010-2014) Ptychion in Biology (Grade: 8.06/10) (BSc equivalent) Honours Degree Project (Immunology Lab, Department of Biology, University of Crete): The effect of carvacrol, a phenolic monoterpene present in the essential oil of the family Lamiaceae, on the immune system. Quarterly Laboratory Exercise (Immunology Lab, Department of Biology, University of Crete): Soluble MHC Class-II and their role in autoimmunity and tolerance (in collaboration with other lab members)

Laboratory Experience
Fully trained for laboratory equipment usage and various techniques performance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Cell culture❖ Nucleic acid extraction/purification❖ PCR: conventional and RT-qPCR❖ Gel electrophoresis❖ Protein assays (ELISA, immunofluorescence, immunohistochemistry, immunocytochemistry, protein isolation, Western Blot)❖ Cell viability and death assessment (Trypan Blue staining, Flow Cytometry, MTS/MTT assay, Acridine Orange staining)❖ Cell proliferation assessment (³HThymidine assay, Flow Cytometry)❖ Cell transfection (lipid-assisted, electroporation-mediated)❖ Light and Fluorescent microscopy❖ Tumour Micro Array (TMA) analysis

Cellular Morphology Evaluation techniques:

- ❖ Cyto/histochemical techniques for cell staining/distinction (Giemsa staining, Sudan Black, Periodic acid–Schiff (PAS), Non-specific Esterase (NSE), Acid phosphatase, Alkaline phosphatase, Peroxidase staining and Prussian Blue stain for iron)
- ❖ Microscopic analysis of peripheral blood and bone marrow smears, and cerebrospinal fluid

Data interpretation, processing and analysis, including:

- ❖ Literature searching and interpretation
- ❖ Sequencing interpretation and analysis
- ❖ Alignment and chromatogram analysis
- ❖ Basic statistical analysis: SPSS/ GraphPad Prism literate
- ❖ Basic bioinformatics tools: Galaxy

Professional Experience

05/2020-currently	Biologist, Laboratory of the Department of Pediatric Hematology & Oncology (TAO), "Aghia Sophia" Children's Hospital
2016-2019	Laboratory Demonstrator, Keele University
2016	Teacher of Molecular Biology, Oxbridge Academic Programs, University of St Andrews, Scotland

Publications & Posters

- ❖ Bountali, A., Tonge, D. P. and Mourtada-Maarabouni, M. (2021) 'Identification of novel lncRNAs involved in cell fate decisions of neuroblastoma cells', **in preparation**.
- ❖ Frank, F., Kavousi, N., Bountali, A., Mourtada-Maarabouni, M., Ortlund, E.A. (2020) 'The lncRNA Growth Arrest Specific 5 Regulates Cell Survival via Distinct Structural Modules with Independent Functions', *Cell Reports*. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2020.107933.
- ❖ Bountali, A., Tonge, D. P. and Mourtada-Maarabouni, M. (2019) 'RNA sequencing reveals a key role for the long non-coding RNA MIAT in regulating neuroblastoma and glioblastoma cell fate', *International Journal of Biological Macromolecules*, 130, pp. 878–891. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2019.03.005>.
- ❖ Haque, F., Varlet, P., Puntonet, J., Storer, L., Bountali, A., Rahman, R., Grill, J., Carcaboso, A. M., Jones, C., Layfield, R. and Grundy, R. G. (2017) 'Evaluation of a novel antibody to define histone 3.3 G34R mutant brain tumours', *Acta Neuropathologica Communications*, 5(1), p. 45. doi: 10.1186/s40478-017-0449-1.
- ❖ Bountali, K., Mourtada-Maarabouni, M. and Tonge, D. (2018) 'PO-349 Identification of differentially expressed lncRNAs in metformin resistant SH-SY5Y neuroblastoma cells', *ESMO Open*, 3 (Suppl 2), p. A365 LP-A366. Available at: http://esmoopen.bmj.com/content/3/Suppl_2/A365.2.abstract.
- ❖ Bountali A. and Mourtada-Maarabouni M. Unravelling the role of novel uncharacterised long non-coding RNAs in the control of cell fate [1399]. In: NCRI; 5-8 November 2017; Liverpool, UK. *British Journal of Cancer (BJC)*. Abstract number: 1399. Available from: <http://abstracts.ncri.org.uk/abstract/unravelling-the-role-of-novel-uncharacterised-long-non-coding-rnas-in-the-control-of-cell-fate/>
- ❖ Haque, F., Bountali, A., Rahman, R., Carcaboso, A. M., Varlet, P., Grill, J., Jones, C., Layfield, R. and Grundy, R. (2016) 'Novel antibodies to study histone H3.3 mutations in DIPG and pGG', *Neuro-Oncology*, 18, p. iii68-iii69.

