

# SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE

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## STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- BSc from the Department of Biology, University of Thessaloniki.
- Ph.D. degree from the Department of Biology, University of Athens.
- Post-graduate fellow at a. the EMBL (European Molecular Biology Laboratory), in Heidelberg, Germany, b. the Laboratory for Enzyme Research, Institute of Biology, NCSR "Demokritos", Athens, and c. the Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology, St. Mary's Hospital, Imperial College, London, UK.
- 1999: Researcher, Head of the Laboratory of Cell Proliferation and Ageing, Institute of Biology, NCSR "Demokritos", Athens.
- 2007: Research Director. Head of the Laboratory of Cell Proliferation and Ageing, Institute of Biology, NCSR "Demokritos", Athens. In parallel, Head of the Laboratory of Cell Systems and Bioactive Compounds and Scientific Director of the Animal House of NCSR "Demokritos".
- Currently: Director of the Institute of Biosciences and Applications, NCSR "Demokritos" and Vice-President of NCSR "Demokritos".

## OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- President of the Hellenic Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HSBMB) (2014-2017, 2020-2021 & 2024-2025). Member of the Board since 2006.
- President of the European Tissue Repair Society (ETRS) (2013-2015).
- Member of the National Council of Research and Development, Sector of Biology & Biotechnology (2008-2010 & 2018-2020).
- National Expert for the FP6 of EU (2004-2006).

- Member of the National Committee for the Wellbeing of Laboratory Animals (2016-today). President of the Ethics Committee of the Animal Facility of NCSR “Demokritos”.
- Member of the Council for Research and Innovation of the Attika Region (2018-2020)
- President or Member of Scientific and Organising Committees of Greek and International Congresses
- Management of more than 35 national, EU-funded and International competitive funded research projects.
- Member of the Editorial Boards of “Ageing Research Reviews”, “Mechanisms of Ageing and Development”, “Biogerontology”, “Experimental Gerontology”, “Wound Repair and Regeneration”, “Antioxidants”, “Molecular Biology Reports – Extracellular Matrix Section”, “Proteoglycans”.
- Organization and management of Inter-Institutional Post-graduate Courses, teaching in several Post-graduate Courses.
- Director of the National Doping Control Laboratory

#### **SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS:**

Mechanisms in ageing and longevity: Cellular senescence and its role in age-related pathologies, cancer, wound healing, intervertebral disc degeneration, growth factors, signaling pathways, stress responses, extracellular matrix, identification of novel bioactive compounds (natural and synthetic), biomaterials, stem cells and cell replacement therapy.

**Publications in peer-reviewed journals: 223**

**Book chapters: 16**

**Citations: 12190 (Scopus), 17120 (Google Scholar)**

**h-index: 53 (Scopus), 61 (Google Scholar)**

**Patents: 2 (plus 1 pending)**

## PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

1. **Kletsas, D.**, Stathakos, D.: "Quiescence and proliferative response of normal human embryonic fibroblasts in a homologous environment. Effect of aging". *Cell Biol. Int. Rep.* 16 (1992) 103-113.
2. Stathakos, D., Psarras, S., **Kletsas, D.**: "Stimulation of human embryonic lung fibroblasts by TGF- $\beta$  and PDGF acting in synergism. The role of cell density". *Cell Biol. Int.* 17 (1993) 55-64.
3. Psarras, S., **Kletsas, D.**, Stathakos, D.: "Restoration of down-regulated PDGF receptors by TGF- $\beta$  in human embryonic fibroblasts. Enhanced response during in vitro aging". *FEBS Letters* 339 (1994) 84-88.
4. **Kletsas, D.**, Stathakos, D., Sorrentino, V., Philipson, L.: "The growth inhibitory block of TGF- $\beta$  is located close to the G1/S border in the cell cycle". *Exp. Cell Res.* 217 (1995) 477 - 483.
5. Franchini, A., **Kletsas, D.**, Ottaviani, E.: "Presence of PDGF and TGF- $\beta$  immunoreactive molecules in invertebrate and vertebrate immunocytes: an evolutionary approach". *Histochem. J.* 28 (1996) 599 – 603.
6. Ottaviani, E., Franchini, A., **Kletsas, D.**, Franceschi, C.: "Presence and role of cytokines and growth factors in invertebrates" *Ital. J. Zool.* 63 (1996) 317-323.
7. Ottaviani, E., Caselgrandi, E., **Kletsas, D.**: "Effect of PDGF and TGF- $\beta$  on the release of biogenic amines from invertebrate immunocytes and their possible role in the stress response" *FEBS Lett.* 403 (1997) 236-238.
8. Pratsinis, H., **Kletsas, D.**, Stathakos, D.: "Autocrine growth regulation in fetal and adult human fibroblasts" *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 237 (1997) 348-353.
9. Ottaviani, E., Sassi, D., **Kletsas, D.**: "PDGF and TGF- $\beta$  induce changes in cell shape of invertebrate immunocytes: effect of calcium-entry blockers" *Eur. J. Cell Biol.* 74 (1997) 336-341.
10. Ottaviani, E., Franchini, A., **Kletsas, D.**, Bernardi, M., Genedani, S.: "Involvement of PDGF and TGF- $\beta$  in conformational changes, cell migration and phagocytosis in invertebrate and human immunocytes" *Animal Biol.* 6 (1997) 95-99.
11. **Kletsas, D.**, Barbieri, D., Stathakos, D., Botti, B., Bergamini, S., Tomasi, A., Monti, D., Malorni, W., Franceschi, C.: "The highly reducing sugar 2-deoxy-D-ribose induces apoptosis in human fibroblasts by reduced glutathione depletion and cytoskeletal disruption" *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 243 (1998) 416-425.
12. **Kletsas, D.**, Sassi, D., Franchini, A., Ottaviani, E.: "PDGF and TGF- $\beta$  induce cell shape changes in invertebrate immunocytes via specific cell surface receptors" *Eur. J. Cell Biol.* 75 (1998) 362-366.
13. Ottaviani, E., Caselgrandi, E., **Kletsas, D.**: "The CRH-ACTH-biogenic amine axis in invertebrate immunocytes is activated by PDGF and TGF- $\beta$ " *FEBS Lett.* 427 (1998) 255-258.
14. **Kletsas, D.**, Caselgrandi, E., Barbieri, D., Stathakos, D., Franceschi, C., Ottaviani, E.: "Neutral endopeptidase-24.11 (NEP) activity in human fibroblasts during development and ageing". *Mech. Ageing Dev.* 102 (1998) 15-23.
15. **Kletsas, D.**, Basdra, E.K., Papavassiliou, A.G.: "Mechanical stimulation exerted by stretching induces DNA synthesis in PDL fibroblasts by a mechanism that does not involve autocrine growth factor production" *FEBS Lett.* 430 (1998) 358-362.
16. Sassi, D., **Kletsas, D.**, Ottaviani, E.: "Interactions of signalling pathways in ACTH (1-24)-induced cell shape changes in invertebrate immunocytes". *Peptides* 19 (1998) 1105-1110.
17. Ottaviani, E., Franchini, A., Barbieri, D., **Kletsas, D.**: "Comparative and morpho-functional studies on *Mytilus galloprovincialis* hemocytes: presence of two aging-related hemocyte stages" *Ital. J. Zool.* 65 (1998) 349-354.

18. Ottaviani, E., Malagoli, D., **Kletsas, D.**: "PDGF and TGF- $\beta$  induce shape changes in invertebrate immunocytes via multiple signalling pathways and provoke the expression of Fos-, Jun- and SMAD-family members" *Comp. Biochem. Physiol.* 122B (1999) 389-395.
19. **Kletsas, D.**, Papavassiliou, A.: "The therapeutic potential of targeting drugs at transcription factors" *Exp. Opin. Invest. Drugs* 8 (1999) 737-746. (I.F. 5.432)
20. Ottaviani, E., Barbieri, D., Franchini, A., **Kletsas, D.**: "PDGF and TGF- $\beta$  partially prevent 2-deoxy-D-ribose-induced apoptosis in fat body cell line IPLB-LdFB from the insect *Lymantria dispar*" *J. Insect. Physiol.* 46 (2000) 81-87.
21. Hsieh, J.-K\*. **Kletsas, D.\***, Hughes, A., Schachter, M., Sever, P., Demoliou-Mason, C\*.: "p53, p21(WAF1/CIP1), and MDM2 involvement in proliferation and apoptosis in an in vitro model of conditionally immortalized human vascular smooth muscle cells" *Arterioscl. Thromb. Vascular Biol.* 20 (2000) 973-981.
22. Caselgrandi, E., **Kletsas, D.**, Ottaviani, E.: "Endopeptidase-24.11 (NEP) de-activates PDGF- and TGF- $\beta$ -induced cell shape changes in invertebrate immunocytes" *Cell Biol. Int.* 24 (2000) 85-90.
23. **Kletsas, D.**, Pratsinis, H., Zervolea, Ir., Chandris, P., Sevaslidou, E., Ottaviani, E., Stathakos, D.: "Fibroblast responses to exogenous and autocrine growth factors relevant to tissue repair" *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 908 (2000) 155-166.
24. Pratsinis, H., Demoliou-Mason, C., Hughes, A., **Kletsas, D.**: "A novel in vitro model of conditionally immortalized human vascular smooth muscle cells: A tool for ageing studies" *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 908 (2000) 321-323.
25. Zervolea, I., **Kletsas, D.**, Stathakos, D.: "Autocrine regulation of proliferation and extracellular matrix homeostasis in human fibroblasts" *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 276 (2000) 785-790.
26. Gorgoulis, V.G., Zacharatos, P., Mariatos, G., Liloglou, T., Kokotas, S., Kastrinakis, N., Kotsinas, A., Athanasiou, A., Foukas, P., Zoumpourlis, V., **Kletsas, D.**, Ikonomopoulos, J., Asimakopoulos, P.J., Kittas, C., Field, J.K.: "Deregulated expression of c-mos in non-small cell lung carcinomas: relationship with p53 status, genomic instability, and tumor kinetics" *Cancer Res.* 61 (2001) 538-549.
27. Tsagarakis, S., Tsigos, C., Vassiliou, V., Tsiotra, P., Pratsinis, H., **Kletsas, D.**, Trivizas, P., Nikou, A., Mavromatis, T., Sotsiou, F., Raptis, S., Thalassinou, N.: "Food-dependent androgen and cortisol secretion by a GIP-receptor expressive adenocortical adenoma leading to hirsutism and subclinical Cushing's syndrome: *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies. *J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metabol.* 86 (2001) 583-589.
28. Ottaviani, E., Barbieri, D., Malagoli, D., **Kletsas, D.**: "Involvement of PI-3-Kinase, PKA and PKC in PDGF- and TGF-beta-mediated prevention of 2-deoxy-D-ribose-induced apoptosis in the insect cell line IPLB-LDFB" *Cell Biol. Int.* 25 (2001) 171-177.
29. Tsoi, E., Gorgoulis, V.G., Zacharatos, P., Kotsinas, A., Mariatos, G., Kasrtrinakis, N.G., Kokotas, S., Kanavaros, P., Asimakopoulos, P., Field, J.K., **Kletsas, D.**, Kittas, C.: "Low levels of p27 in association with deregulated p53-pRb protein status enhance tumor proliferation and chromosomal instability in non-small cell lung carcinomas" *Mol. Med.* 7 (2001) 418-429.
30. Zacharatos, P., Kotsinas, A., Tsantoulis, P., Evangelou, K., **Kletsas, D.**, Asimakopoulos, P., Doussis-Anagnostopoulou, Ip., Pezzella, F., Gatter, K., Papavassiliou, A., Kittas, C., Gorgoulis, V.: "Relationship of the K-ras/c-mos expression patterns with angiogenesis in non-small cell lung carcinomas" *Mol. Med.* 7 (2001) 590-597.
31. Ottaviani, E., Franchini, A., **Kletsas, D.**: "PDGF and TGF- $\beta$  in invertebrate immune and neuroendocrine interactions: another sign of conservation in evolution" *Comp. Biochem. Physiol. C Toxicol Pharmacol.* 129 (2001) 295-306.
32. **Kletsas, D.**, Basdra, E.K., Papavassiliou, A.G.: "Effect of protein kinase inhibitors on the stretch-elicited c-Fos and c-Jun up-regulation in human PDL osteoblast-like cells" *J. Cell. Physiol.* 190 (2002) 313-321.
33. Gonos, E.S., Agrafiotis, D., Dontas, A.S., Efthimiopoulos, S., Galaris, D., Karamanos, N.K., **Kletsas, D.**, Kolettas, E., Panayotou, G., Pratsinis, H., Sekeri-Pataryas, K.E., Simoes, D., Sourlingas, T.G.,

- Stathakos, D., Stratigos, A.J., Tavernarakis, N., Trougakos, I.P., Tsiganos, C.P., Vynios, D.H.: "Ageing research in Greece" *Exp. Gerontol.* 37 (2002) 735-747.
34. Ziros, P.G., Rojas Gil, A.P., Georgakopoulos, T., Habeos, I., **Kletsas, D.**, Basdra, E.K., Papavassiliou, A.G.: "The bone-specific transcriptional regulator Cbfa1 is a target of mechanical signals in osteoblastic cells" *J. Biol. Chem.* 277 (2002) 23934-23941.
  35. Alexandratou, El., Yova, D., Handris, P., **Kletsas, D.**, Loukas, S.: "Human fibroblast alterations induced by low power laser irradiation at the single cell level using confocal microscopy" *Photochem. Photobiol. Sci.* 1 (2002) 547-552.
  36. Gorgoulis, V.G., Zacharatos P., Mariatos, G., Kotsinas, A., Bouda, M., **Kletsas, D.**, Asimacopoulos, P.J., Agnantis, N., Kittas, C., Papavassiliou, A.G.: "Transcription factor E2F-1 acts as a growth-promoting factor and is associated with adverse prognosis in non-small cell lung carcinomas" *J. Pathol.* 198 (2002) 142-156.
  37. Gazouli, M., Kokotas S., Zoumpourlis, V., Zacharatos, P., Mariatos, G., **Kletsas, D.**, Kittas, C., Gorgoulis, V.: "The complement inhibitor CD59, and the lymphocyte function-associated antigen-3 (LFA-3, CD58) genes possess functional binding sites for the p53 tumor suppressor protein" *Anticancer Res.* 22 (2002) 4237-4241.
  38. Pratsinis, H., Tsagarakis, S., Zervolea, Ir., Giannakopoulos, F., Stathakos, D., Thalassinos, N., **Kletsas, D.**: "Chronic in vivo exposure to glucocorticoids prolongs cellular lifespan: The case of Cushing's syndrome patients' fibroblasts" *Exp. Gerontol.* 37 (2002) 1237-1245.
  39. Mitropoulou, T., Tzanakakis, G.N., **Kletsas, D.**, Kalofonos, C., Karamanos, N.K. "Letrozol as a potent inhibitor of cell proliferation and expression of metalloproteinases (MMP-2 and MMP-9) by human breast cancer cells" *Int. J. Cancer* 104 (2002) 15-160.
  40. Papazafiri, P., **Kletsas, D.**: "Developmental and age-related alterations of calcium homeostasis in human fibroblasts" *Exp. Gerontol.* 38 (2002) 307-311.
  41. Kolokythas G., Kostakis I.K., Pouli N., Marakos P., **Kletsas D.**, Pratsinis H. "Synthesis and cytotoxic activity of some new azapyranoxanthenone aminoderivatives" *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* 11 (2003) 4591-4598.
  42. Gorgoulis V.G., Zacharatos P., Kotsinas A., **Kletsas D.**, Mariatos G., Zoumpourlis V., Kittas C., Ryan K.M. and Papavassiliou A.G. "The p53 pathway activates ICAM-1 (CD54) expression in an NF- $\kappa$ B-independent manner" *EMBO J* 22 (2003) 1567-1578.
  43. Eliades T., Pratsinis H., **Kletsas D.**, Eliades G., Makou M. "Characterization and cytotoxicity of ions released from stainless steel and nickel-titanium orthodontic alloys" *Am. J. Orthod Dentofacial Orthop.* 125 (2004) 24-29.
  44. **Kletsas, D.**, Pratsinis, H., Mariatos, G., Zacharatos, P., and Gorgoulis, V.G. "The pro-inflammatory phenotype of senescent cells: the p53-mediated ICAM-1 expression" *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 1019 (2004) 330-332.
  45. **Kletsas D.**, Li W., Han Z., Papadopoulos V. "Peripheral-type benzodiazepine receptor (PBR) and PBR drug ligands in fibroblast and fibrosarcoma cell proliferation: Role of ERK, c-Jun and ligand-activated PBR-independent pathways". *Biochem. Pharmacol.* 67 (2004) 1927-1932.
  46. Pratsinis H, Giannouli C-Ch., Zervolea Ir., Psarras S., Stathakos D., **Kletsas D.** "Differential proliferative response of fetal and adult fibroblasts to TGF- $\beta$ : Wound Rep. Regen. 12 (2004) 374-383.
  47. Athanasas K., Magiatis P., Fokialakis N., Skaltsoumis A.L., Pratsinis H., **Kletsas D.** "Hyperjovinols A and B: Two new phloroglucinol derivatives from *Hypericum jovis* with antioxidant activity in cell cultures". *J. Nat. Prod.* 67 (2004) 973-977.
  48. Roussidis A.E., Mitropoulou A.D., Theocharis A.D., Kiamouris C., Papadopoulos S., **Kletsas D.**, Karamanos N.K. "STI571 as a potent inhibitor of growth and invasiveness of human epithelial breast cancer cells" *Anticancer Res.* 24 (2004) 1445-1447.
  49. Bakas P., Liapis A.E., Zervolea Ir., Voutsinas G., **Kletsas D.**, Creatsas G. "mRNA for procollagen and genuine stress urinary incontinence". *Intern. Urogynecol. J. Pelvic Floor Dysfunct.* 15 (2004) 429-431.

50. Gioka C., Bourauel C., Hiskia A., **Kletsas D.**, Eliades T., Eliades G. "Light-cured vs. chemically-cured orthodontic adhesive resins: a comparative assessment of the degree of cure, monomer leaching and cytotoxicity". *Am. J. Orthod. Dentofacial Ortop.* 127 (2005) 413-419.
51. Gorgoulis V., Pratsinis H., Zacharatos P., Demoliou C., Sigala F., Papavassiliou A.G., **Kletsas D.**: "p53-dependent ICAM-1 over-expression in senescent human cells. Their identification in atherosclerotic lesions". *Lab. Invest.* 85 (2005) 502-511.
52. Zervolea Ir. Pratsinis H., Tsagarakis S., Karavitaki N., Stathakos D., Thalassinos N., **Kletsas D.**: "Chronic glucocorticoid excess in vivo does not lead to persisting adverse functional changes in human skin fibroblasts" *Eur.J. Endocrinol.* 152 (2005) 895-902.
53. Stathakos D., Pratsinis H., Zachos I., Vlachaki Ir., Gianakopoulou A., Ziani D., **Kletsas D.**: "Health status and life style of Greek centenarians" *Exp. Gerontol.* 40 (2005) 512-518.
54. Carrieri, G., Marzi, E., Olivieri, F., Marchegiani, F., Cavallone, L., Cardelli, M., Giovagnetti, S., Steconni, R., Molendini, C., Trapassi, C., De Benedictis, G., **Kletsas, D.**, Franceschi, C. The G/C915 polymorphism of transforming growth factor beta1 is associated with human longevity: a study in Italian Centenarians. *Aging Cell* 3 (2004) 443-448.
55. Trougakos I.P., Lourda M., Agiostratidou G., **Kletsas D.**, Gonos E.S. Differential effects of clusterin/apolipoprotein J on cellular growth and survival. *Free Rad. Biol. Med.* 38 (2005) 436-449.
56. Kousidou O.C., Mitropoulou T.N., Roussidis A.E., **Kletsas D.**, Theocharis A.D., Karamanos N.K. "Genistein suppresses the invasive potential of human breast cancer cells through transcriptional regulation of metalloproteinases and their tissue inhibitors. *Int. J. Oncol.* 26 (2005) 1101-1109.
57. Kostakis IK, Tenta R, Pouli N, Marakos P, Skaltsounis AL, Pratsinis H, **Kletsas D.** "Design, synthesis, and antiproliferative activity of some novel aminosubstituted xanthenones, able to overcome multidrug resistance toward MES-SA/Dx5 cells." *Bioorg Med Chem Lett.* 15 (2005) 5057-60.
58. Gorgoulis V., Vassiliou L.-V., Karakaidos P., Zacharatos P., Kotsinas A., Liloglou T., Venere M., DiTullio R.A., Kastrinakis N.G., Levy B., **Kletsas D.**, Yoneta A., Herlyn M., Kittas C., Halazonetis T.D. "Activation of the DNA damage checkpoint and genomic instability in human precancerous lesions" *Nature* 434 (2005): 907-13.
59. Kolokythas G, Pouli N, Marakos P, Pratsinis H, **Kletsas D.** "Design, synthesis and antiproliferative activity of some new azapyranoxanthenone aminoderivatives" *Eur J Med Chem.* 41 (2006):71-9.
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61. Skandalis S.S., **Kletsas D.**, Kyriakopoulou D., Stavropoulos M., Theocharis D.A. "The greatly increased amounts of accumulated versican and decorin with specific post-translational modifications may be closely associated with the malignant phenotype of pancreatic cancer" *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 1760 (2006):1217-25.
62. Roberts S, Evans EH, **Kletsas D**, Jaffray DC, Eisenstein SM. "Senescence in human intervertebral discs" *Eur Spine J. Suppl* 15 (2006):312-6.
63. Hadjipavlou C, Kostakis IK, Pouli N, Marakos P, Pratsinis H, **Kletsas D.** "Synthesis and antiproliferative activity of substituted benzopyranoisoindoles: a new class of cytotoxic compounds" *Bioorg Med Chem Lett.* 16 (2006):4822-5.
64. Rojas-Gil AP, Ziros PG, Diaz L, **Kletsas D**, Basdra EK, Alexandrides TK, Zadik Z, Frank SJ, Papanthanasopoulou V, Beratis NG, Papavassiliou AG, Spiliotis BE. "Growth hormone/JAK-STAT axis signal-transduction defect. A novel treatable cause of growth failure" *FEBS J.* 273 (2006):3454-66.
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68. Pratsinis H., Tsagarakis S., Zervolea I, Stathakos D., Thallassinis N., **Kletsas D**. “The unexpected anabolic phenotype and extended longevity of skin fibroblasts after chronic glucocorticoid excess” *Dose Response* 4 (2006) 133-144.
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74. **Kletsas D**, Pratsinis H, Gioni V, Pilichos K, Yiacoymettis AM, Tsagarakis S “Prior chronic in vivo glucocorticoid excess leads to an anabolic phenotype and an extension of cellular lifespan of skin fibroblasts in vitro.” *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 1100 (2007) 449-54.
75. Eliades T, Gioni V, **Kletsas D**, Athanasiou A, Eliades G. “Oestrogenicity of orthodontic adhesive resins” *Eur J Orthod*. 29 (2007) 404-407.
76. Pratsinis H, **Kletsas D**. “PDGF, bFGF and IGF-I stimulate the proliferation of intervertebral disc cells in vitro via the activation of the ERK and Akt signaling pathways”. *Eur. Spine J*. 16 (2007) 1858-1866.
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