

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

**Alissafi Themis, MSc, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Biology,

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National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Affiliated Investigator

Immune Regulation Laboratory, Center for Basic sciences,

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### Education:

- **PhD:** 2010, Medical School University of Crete and Laboratory of Cellular Immunology, Centre for Immunology and Transplantation, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens, Greece, Supervisor: Vily Panoutsakopoulou, Title of Dissertation: “Study on the role of cytokine Eta-1/Opn on Th2-mediated allergic recall responses”
- **M.Sc.:** 2004, Department of Clinical Chemistry, Medical School, University of Crete, Greece, Supervisor: Christos Tsatsanis, Title of Dissertation: “Corticotropin-Releasing Factor family of neuropeptides via the CRHR2 receptors induces the expression of Toll-Like Receptor-4 (TLR4) expression in macrophages through activation of the transcription factor PU.1”
- **B.Sc.:** 2002, Department of Chemistry, School of Sciences, University of Crete, Greece

### Current Positions:

2021- Assistant Professor in Biology and Genetics, Division of Basic Sciences, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

2019- Affiliated Investigator, Laboratory of Immune Regulation, Center for Basic Science, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens, Greece

### Previous Positions:

2020 Investigator-Assistant Professor Level, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB), Foundation for Research and Technology, Greece

2013-2019, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Laboratory of Immune Regulation, Center for Clinical, Experimental Surgery & Translational Research, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens, Greece

2010-2013, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Laboratory of Autoimmunity and Inflammation, Division of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Institute of Biology and Biotechnology and Medical School, University of Crete, Greece

2008-2010, Research Fellow Laboratory of Immune Regulation, University Hospital Gent, Belgium

### Funding:

2024-2026 Basic Research Financing (Horizontal support for all Sciences), National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Greece 2.0). Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation. Role: Principal Investigator. Budget: 200.000 euros

2021-2026 European Research Council Starting grant 2020. Role: Principal Investigator. Budget: 1.500.000 euros

2020-2023 Post-Doctoral Grant, Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation. Role: Principal Investigator. Budget: 200.000 euros

2019-2021 Astra Zeneca S.A. Role: Co- Principal Investigator. Budget: 150.000 euros

Fellowships/Prizes/Awards:

2023, First Poster Award 5th International Conference on ImmunoMetabolism: Molecular and Cellular Immunology of Metabolism, Aegean Conferences  
2018, “Fotis Kafatos” Excellence in Biology awards, PanHellenic Union of Biosciences  
2017, First poster award, 37<sup>th</sup> European Workshop for Rheumatology Diseases (EWRR)  
2015, Post-doctoral Fellowship, Hellenic Academy of NeuroImmunology (HELANI)  
2014, Post-doctoral Fellowship, National Scholarship Foundation (IKY)-SIEMENS  
2009, Exchange Research Fellowship, European Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology EAACI & GA2LEN  
2009, Exchange Research Fellowship, European Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology EAACI & GA2LEN  
2008, Leonardo da Vinci Grant, European Community Training Placement under the Lifelong Learning Programme  
2008, long-term Research Fellowship, European Respiratory Society (ERS)  
2008, Travel Grant Award at the European Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Conference Barcelona, Spain  
2007, Travel Grant Award at the 5th EAACI-GA2LEN Davos Meeting, Switzerland  
2006, Travel Grant Award at the European Congress of Immunology (ECI) Paris, France  
2004, First Poster Award 8th Annual Meeting of the Neuroendocrinology Section of the DGE, Berlin, Germany  
2003, National Scholarship Award for academic excellence, General Secretariat for Research (EPEAEK), School of Medicine, University of Crete, Greece  
2002, National Scholarship Award for academic excellence, National Scholarship Foundation (IKY), School of Medicine, University of Crete, Greece

Teaching Activities:

2021- Assistant Professor – Genetics, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
2021- Assistant Professor – Cellular Biology, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
2019- Lecturer at the “Molecular Biomedicine” graduate program, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece  
2019- Lecturer at the graduate program of “Clinical Biochemistry-Molecular Diagnostics” at the University of Athens, Biology School  
2018-2020 Lecturer at the graduate program of “Pediatric Pneumonology” at the University of Athens, Medical School.  
2017- Lecturer at the “Molecular Basis of Human Disease” graduate program at the University of Crete Medical School.  
2011 Lecturer and practical exercise on principal of Flow cytometry, Medical School, University of Crete, Greece  
2003-2004 Assistant, laboratories of the course inorganic chemistry, Department of Chemistry, School of Sciences, University of Crete, Greece

Reviewing Activities/ Editorial Board Membership:

2023- Member of the Organizing Committee of Immunology: Basic Principles and Clinical Applications Postgraduate Program

2023- Member of the Editorial Board of *Frontiers in Immunology Journal*  
2022- Grant Evaluator of Italian NHS National Biomedical Research Call and PNRR Call, Ministry of Health, Italy  
2021- Grant Evaluator of Young Investigators for ELKE Medical School, University of Crete  
2021 – Jury Member of the Falling Walls Lab Greece  
2015 – Reviewer at *British Journal of Cancer*, *Metabolism*, *Archives of Medical Sciences*, *Biomedicines*, *Cancer Immunology Immunotherapy*, *Journal of Immunology*, *European Journal of Immunology*, *Allergy*, *Autophagy*, *Autoimmunity*

*Memberships of Scientific Societies:*

2021- Association for ERC grantees  
2020 - EFIS young immunologists task force  
2020 – American Academy for Cancer Research (AACR)  
2015- Hellenic Academy of Neuroimmunologists  
2014 - Hellenic Association of Immunologists  
2008 – European Respiratory Society  
2007 – European Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI)

*Book Chapters*

Papaioannou A.S., Boumpas A., Papadopoulou M., Hatzioannou A., **Alissafi T.**, Verginis P. Measuring suppressive activity and autophagy in myeloid-derived suppressor cells. *Methods in Molecular Biology*. 2020

*Selected Publications:*

1. Grigoriou M., Banos A., Hatzioannou A., Kloetgen A., Kouzis P., Aggouraki D., Zakopoulou R., Bamias G., Kassi E., Mavroudis D., Bamias A., Boumpas D.T., Tsirigos A., Gogas H., Verginis P\*, **Alissafi T\***. Regulatory T cell transcriptomic reprogramming denominates adverse events induced by checkpoint inhibitors in solid tumors., *Cancer Immunology Research*, 2021 (\* equal last and corresponance)
2. **Alissafi T\***, Kalafati L., Lazari M., Alexaki I., Chavakis T., Verginis P\*. (\*correspondence). Mitochondrial Oxidative Damage Underlies Regulatory T Cell Defects in Autoimmunity, *Cell Metabolism*, 2020.
3. **Alissafi T**, Hatzioannou A, Mintzas K, Barouni RM, Banos A, Sormendi S, Polyzos A, Xilouri M, Wielockx B, Gogas H and Verginis P. Autophagy orchestrates the regulatory program of tumor-associated myeloid-derived suppressor cells. *J Clin Invest*. 2018 Jun 19. pii: 120888. doi: 10.1172/JCI120888
4. **Alissafi T**, Banos A, Boon L, Sparwasser T, Ghigo A, Wing K, Vassilopoulos D, Boumpas D, Chavakis T, Cadwell K, Verginis P. Tregs restrain dendritic cell autophagy to ameliorate autoimmunity. *J Clin Invest*. 2017 Jun
5. Xanthou G\*, **Alissafi T\***, Semitekolou M, Simoes DC, Economidou E, Gaga M, Lambrecht BN, Lloyd CM, Panoutsakopoulou V. Osteopontin has a crucial role in allergic airway disease through regulation of dendritic cell subsets. *Nat Med*. 2007 May;13(5):570-8. Epub 2007 Apr 15. (equal contribution)