



Name, Christina Dalla PhD

Associate Professor
School of Medicine / Department of Pharmacology
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Email: cdalla@med.uoa.gr
Tel: +30 2107462577
Lab web page: <http://psychopharmacology.med.uoa.gr>

Education

Year

2000 BS in Pharmacy, NKUA

2005 PhD in Psychopharmacology, NKUA and Marie Curie fellow University of Liege, Belgium

2005-2008 Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow Rutgers University of New Jersey, USA

Research Interests

My research team studies sex differences in animal models of affective disorders, as depression and anxiety disorders are twice as common in women than men. We use behavioral, neurochemical, molecular and endocrinological approaches in order to understand sex differences in the neurobiology and treatment of neuropsychiatric diseases. We have recently identified that aromatase inhibitors, used in cancer therapy, exert mood effects and neurochemical changes in the cortical-hippocampus neural circuit. Additionally, our recent work shows that the thalamic *nucleus reuniens* is critically involved in stress and depression. Our ultimate goal is to deliver more effective and faster-acting psychotropic treatments by targeting neurosteroids, such as neuroestrogens, as well as specific receptors and signaling pathways. Furthermore, we have participated in several collaborative projects on Alzheimer's disease, pharmacological screening of new CNS-molecules, as well as neurochemical studies in several species.

Funding

- “Development and Screening of Novel beta Amyloid Peptide Inhibitors for Alzheimer’s Disease (TREAT--AD)”, National action “Large Scale Cooperation Projects”, funded by the General Secretariat of Research and Technology, Greek Ministry of Development, 2012-2015.
- “Novel mechanisms of stress-induced mood and cognitive impairments- the road from depression to Alzheimer’s disease”, funded by the GSRT, Greek Ministry of Education, 2012-2015.
- IKYDAD 2015-2016 programme, “Depression: Can a cancer drug be used for rapid antidepressant treatment?”, in collaboration with Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich, Germany.
- State Scholarship foundation (IKY), Siemens Program 2016.
- Temple University Internationalization Grant: in collaboration with Assoc. Professor D. Bangasser, Temple University, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Philadelphia, USA, 2017-2018.
- Cohen Veterans Biosciences, USA: WP Leader at PEERS (Internet platform for preclinical research standardization), funding is pending.

Selected Publications

1. Kokras, N., Sotiropoulos, I., Bessinis, D., Tzouveka, E., Almeida, O.F.X., Sousa, N., **Dalla, C.**, 2018, Neuroplasticity-related correlates of environmental enrichment combined with physical activity differ between the sexes” *European Neuropsychopharmacology*, Jan;29(1):1-15, 2019.
2. Kokras, N., Pastrovas, N., Papasava, D., de Bournonville, C., Cornil, C., **Dalla, C.**, 2018. Sex differences in behavioral and neurochemical effects of gonadectomy and aromatase inhibition in rats. *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 87, 93-107.
3. Kafetzopoulos, V., Kokras, N., Sotiropoulos, I., Oliveira, J., Leite-Almeida, H., Vasalou, A., Sardinha, V., Papadopoulou-Daifoti, Z., Almeida, O., Antoniou, K., Sousa, N., **Dalla, C.**, 2018. The nucleus reuniens: a key node in the neurocircuitry of stress and depression. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 23(3):579-586.
4. Kokras, N., **Dalla, C.**, 2017. Preclinical sex differences in depression and antidepressant response: Implications for clinical research. *Journal of Neuroscience Research* 95(1-2), 731-736.
5. Kokras, N., **Dalla, C.**, 2014. Sex differences in animal models of psychiatric disorders. *British Journal of Pharmacology* 171(20), 4595-4619.