

**BRIEF CURRICULUM VITAE: APOSTOLOS APOSTOLIDIS, MD, PhD**

**Title: Professor of Urology-Neurourology, School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece**

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Dr. Apostolos Apostolidis is Professor of Urology-Neurourology at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Department of Urology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (AUTH).

He received his MD (graduation 1990) and Ph.D. degrees (2004) and completed his training in Urology at the AUTH (1998). He served as Junior Consultant Urologist at the General Hospital of Polygyros, Halkidiki (2000-2002). Following a one-year scholarship from the European Urological Scholarship Programme in 2002 at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, UCLH, London, UK, he completed an additional 3.5-year fellowship at the Institute of Neurology, UCL, London, UK until Dec. 2006, when he was appointed Lecturer at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Department of Urology, AUTH. His research collaboration with the Institute of Neurology and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, however, continued over the following years and was named Honorary Lecturer in UCL (2009-12).

He has developed an ongoing research interest in lower urinary tract dysfunction, mainly the overactive bladder syndrome and the mechanism of action of treatments used in human bladder disease states. He has supervised the research activities of the Molecular Urology Lab and the Unit for Study of Urological Diseases (USUD) of the AUTH (2012-2015) as well as a number of academic theses at the AUTH. His overall research Fund at the AUTH has surpassed one million Euro. He is member of the EAU, the ICS, the ICI-Research Society and has chaired the ICI 2016 Neurogenic Committee.

He is a reviewer for 12 PubMed journals and member of the Editorial Board of the Neurourology & Urodynamics and European Urology journals, and previously of the Editorial Board of the BJU International journal (2012-20). He was named Best basic science reviewer for the Journal of Urology (2011). He has (co-)authored 17 chapters (9 in international books and 8 in Greek books) and 87 original or review articles and editorials in peer-reviewed

journals, with an h-index of 33 and more than 4,500 citations to-date. He was awarded with the John Blandy Prize for Best Publication in BJU International in 2004.

He has chaired a number of workshops and scientific sessions at the EAU and ICS meetings, and organized the 1<sup>st</sup> European Consensus Conference and 3<sup>rd</sup> European Masterclass on the use of Botulinum toxin in Urology (2008). He has delivered a total 233 lectures (67 in international and 166 in national scientific meetings). He has received several distinctions for presentations in national and international conferences. He served as Visiting Professor in the multicenter research project TRUST (Training Urology Scientists to develop Treatments – participants: 8 European Universities and 3 Pharmaceutical Industry partners), with visits at the Universities of Maastricht, UZA of Antwerp & KU of Leuven, and the Astellas Pharma Europe Research Centre in Leiden aiming to train and promote the research activities of young researchers in Functional Urology.

He has acted as Consultant for Allergan, Astellas and Pfizer.

### **Undergraduate Medical Education**

School of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.  
Degree in Medicine (1<sup>st</sup> Class Hons.) awarded 11/7/1990

### **Postgraduate Qualifications**

1. Accreditation in Urology (Greek National Board of Health Sciences) Jul. 98
2. Urology Qualification, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Jun. 98
3. Fellow of the European Board of Urology (FEBU) May 00
4. PhD title, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Jun. 04  
Subject: "Objective evaluation of the efficacy of pharmacotherapy in patients with erectile dysfunction"

### **Membership of Learned Societies**

1. European Association of Urology
2. International Continence Society
3. International Neurourology Society
4. Hellenic Urological Association
5. Urological Association of Northern Greece

### **Postgraduate Awards / Distinctions**

- 1) Best oral presentation, 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the European Society for Impotence Research, Barcelona 2000**
- 2) Scholar of the European Association of Urology (1 year) (European Urological Scholarship Programme) 2002-03**

- 3) Best Poster Presentation, session "Neuro-urology: Basic Research II", XVIII<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Association of Urology, Madrid 2003.
- 4) St. Peter's Trust for Kidney, Bladder and Prostate Research grant, 2003  
Project title: "Electrophysiological and morphological characteristics of a suburothelial putative bladder stretch receptor"
- 5) The John Blandy Prize for Best Publication in BJU International for 2004**
- 6) Best poster presentation (2<sup>nd</sup> author) in session "Neuro-urology: Sensory mechanisms", 21<sup>st</sup> Congress of the European Association of Urology, Paris 2006
- 7) Best basic science poster presentation runner-up in the International Continence Society Annual Meeting, New Zealand 2006**
- 8) Best poster presentation (2<sup>nd</sup> author) in session "Botulinum toxin and Voiding dysfunction", 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the European Association of Urology, Berlin 2007
- 9) Chairman of scientific sessions, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Congresses of the European Association of Urology, 2006-17
- 10) Chairman of workshop at the International Uro-Gynecological Association Annual Meeting, Athens 2006
- 11) Member of the Editorial Board of "Neurourology & Urodynamics" Journal (2008-21), "European Urology" journal (2010-21) and BJU International (2012-2019)**
- 13) Invited reviewer for peer reviewed Urological journals International Journal of Impotence Research (2003), Neurourology and Urodynamics (2006-21), BJU International (2006-21), European Urology (2008-21), Journal of Urology (2008-19), World Journal of Urology (2011-21), European Urology Focus (2015-2021), Expert Opinion on Pharmacotherapy (2012-15 & 2018), Ippokratia (2013, 2016), Expert Review of Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research (2014), International Urogynecology Journal (2013-2018), Urology: the Gold Journal (2016-2019), Urology Journal (2019-21) and Journal of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (2016)
- 14) Reviewer of the month, European Urology Journal 2009
- 15) Top 10 reviewer, "Neurourology & Urodynamics" journal, 2009-13 & 2015
- 16) Best reviewer in Basic science for the Journal of Urology, 2011**
- 17) Invited consultant in Advisory Board Meetings for Allergan, Novartis, Pfizer and Astellas
- 18) Chairman of the 1<sup>st</sup> Educational course of the Centre for Study of Continence and Pelvic Floor Dysfunctions of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 2007
- 19) Chairman of the 1<sup>st</sup> European Conference and 3<sup>rd</sup> European Masterclass on the use of Botulinum toxin in Urology, Thessaloniki, Greece 2008**
- 20) Best poster presentation in session Urodynamics/Incontinence/Female Urology at the Annual AUA meeting 2009
- 21) Organization and Co-Chair of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Greek Masterclass on Functional and Reconstructive Urology 2011-14
- 22) Member of the Neurogenic Committee, 5<sup>th</sup> International Consultation on Incontinence 2012**
- 23) Member of the Faculty of 1000 (F1000 - [www.f1000.com](http://www.f1000.com)), 2009-11
- 24) Best poster presentation at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Hellenic Urological Association, 2012**
- 25) 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for best oral presentation at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Hellenic Urological Association, 2012**
- 26) Visiting Professor in the multicentre European research project TRUST ITN (Training Urology Scientists to develop Treatments) which involved 8 European Universities and 3 Commercial companies, aiming at the training of young researchers on Functional Urology and the promotion of their research activities, 2013-14**
- 27) 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for best poster presentation, 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Hellenic Urological Association, 2014**

- 28) 1<sup>st</sup> prize for best presentation, 10<sup>th</sup> EAU Southeastern European Meeting – SEEM, Belgrade 2014**
- 29) Best poster presentation** (corresponding author) in “Male LUTS” session, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the European Association of Urology, Madrid 2015
- 30) 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for best poster presentation (Berlin-Chemie Best Poster Award), 11<sup>th</sup> Southeastern European Meeting – SEEM of the EAU, Antalya) 2015**
- 31) Chairman of the Neurogenic Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> International Consultation On Incontinence, Tokyo 2016**
- 32) 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize for best poster presentation, 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the Hellenic Urological Association, 2016**
- 33) Berlin-Chemie Best Poster Award at the 12<sup>th</sup> Southeastern European Meeting – SEEM of the EAU 2016**
- 34) 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for best oral presentation, 24<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Hellenic Urological Association 2018**
- 35) Best prize in the category “Quality of Life / Patient and Caregiver Experiences”, 49<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of International Continence Society (ICS), 2019**
- 36) Christian Chaussy Award of DGSWL at the 71<sup>st</sup> Congress of the German Urological Association (DGU-Kongress) 2019**
- 37) Invited member of the Committee for Surgery in Neurogenic Incontinence, 7<sup>th</sup> International Consultation on Incontinence 2020**

#### Clinical Posts

<p><b>Current Post</b>  Consultant Urologist, 2<sup>nd</sup> Department of Urology, Papageorgiou General Hospital, Thessaloniki  One of 5 Consultants in a 34-bed Department with general urological workload. Scientific Head of the Neurourology and Female Urology Clinics</p>	<p>Apr. 07 – today</p>
<p><b>Previous posts</b></p>	
<p>Honorary Clinical Assistant, Department of Uro-Neurology,  The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, UCLH</p>	<p>Jul. 02–Dec. 07</p>
<p><b>Junior Consultant Urologist</b>  Dept. of Urology, General Hospital of Halkidiki, Polygyros, Greece.  One of 4 Consultants in a District Hospital Department with general urological workload.</p>	<p>Sep. 00–Jun. 02</p>
<p><b>Urology Residency</b>  Department of Urology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,  ‘George Gennimatas’ General Hospital, Thessaloniki, Greece</p>	<p>Apr. 94- Apr.98</p>
<p><b>Surgical Residency</b>  General Surgery, General District Hospital of Edessa, Greece</p>	<p>Mar. 93- Apr.94</p>
<p><b>District Health Service</b>  GP services in the area of Petrea, Prefecture of Pella</p>	<p>Oct. 91- Feb. 93</p>

#### Academic Posts

**Current Posts**

1. Professor of Urology-Neurourology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki May.20–today
2. Vice-chair of the Institute for Study of Urological Diseases, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki ([www.imop.gr](http://www.imop.gr)) Jan. 07–today  
*Main workload:* Head of the Centre for Continence and Pelvic Floor Disorders, which aims to promote research, education and awareness on Incontinence and pelvic floor disorders

### Previous Posts

1. Associate Professor of Urology-Neurourology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Jan.16 – May.20
1. Assistant Professor of Urology-Neurourology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Aug.11 – Jan.16
2. Lecturer in Urology-Neurourology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Dec.06 –Aug.11
3. Honorary Lecturer, Institute of Neurology, UCL Feb.09 – Feb.12  
*Main workload:* Co-investigator in basic research projects investigating the pathophysiology of neurogenic and idiopathic OAB and the mechanism of action of Botulinum toxin in the treatment of the overactive human bladder.
3. Clinical Research Fellow, Institute of Neurology, UCL Jul. 03 - Dec.06
4. Clinical Research Assistant (Honorary), Institute of Urology & Nephrology, The Middlesex Hospital Feb. 04 - Feb.06
5. Clinical Research Fellow, The Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London Jul. 02 - Jun. 05  
*Main workload:* Use of immunohistochemical techniques under light and electron microscopy to study the afferent innervation of the bladder in patients with neurogenic and idiopathic detrusor overactivity or bladder hypersensitivity and guinea-pig bladders. Supervisors:  
a. Prof. Clare J. Fowler (Department of Uro-Neurology, The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, UCLH)  
b. Prof. Praveen Anand (Peripheral Neuropathy Unit, The Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London) and, c. Dr. Anthony Pullen, Senior Lecturer at the Sobell Department, Institute of Neurology, UCL.
6. Clinical Research Fellow in Neuro-Urology and Erectile Dysfunction, Department of Urology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece Jun. 98-Sept. 00
7. Clinical Research Fellow, Centre for Sexual Dysfunction, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece Nov. 98-Jan. 00  
*Research programme* "Organisation and Function of the Sexual Dysfunction Research Centre, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
*Research project* of the University of Patras aiming to develop a method for assessment of the mechanical properties of the prostate
8. Visiting Fellow, Department of Uro-Neurology, The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery, UCLH Jan. 01–Mar. 01

### Teaching Experience

#### A. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

- a. Teaching of medical students in:

1. Neurourology and Female Urology	2007 – ongoing
2. Sexual dysfunction	Oct. 98 / Jan. 99
b. Clinical urology training of medical students in wards and outpatients	Oct. 95- Apr. 98 2007 – ongoing
c. Organization and Chair of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Educational Course of the Centre for Study of Continence and Pelvic Floor Dysfunctions	May 07
d. Organization and Chair of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> European Masterclass and 1 <sup>st</sup> Consensus meeting on the use of Botulinum toxin in Urology	Jan.08
e. Tutor in educational activities of the Unit for the Study of Urological Diseases of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	2007-2010
Teaching in:	
- Interactive seminars and workshops in 3 successive Interactive Schools of Urology	2008-2010
- Consensus meeting on ‘Guidelines for the management of LUTS with preservation of sexual function	2010
f. Tutor in educational activities of the Institute for the Study of Urological Diseases of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (ISUD) .	2011-19
Teaching in:	
- Interactive seminars and workshops of the 4 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> Interactive School of Urology	2011-20
- Interactive seminars and workshops of the 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Clinical Workshop On Functional and Reconstructive Urology (Co-chair and Organiser)	2011-15
- Scientific meetings/seminars on LUTS/BPH/Sexual Dysfunction	2011-13
g. Post-graduate courses in Urology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	1997-02
h. Post-graduate courses in Urology, University of Thessaly	2012-13
i. Post-graduate courses in Urology, Hellenic Urological Association	2007-08 2011-13
j. Post-graduate courses, non-Urology Departments	
- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Obstetrics & Gynaecology Dept., Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	1998-99
- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Obstetrics & Gynaecology Dept., Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	2010-11
- Paediatrics Department, University of Ioannina	2010-11
k. Post-graduate courses on pediatric incontinence and pelvic floor muscle training, Alexandrion Technological Institute, Thessaloniki	2014-21
l. Tutor at the 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> Educational Week of Greek Urology residents	2009-21
m. Supervisor or Member of the Examining committee in (25) PhD or MD Thesis projects of Urology trainees or Trained Urologists and other Physicians	2009-21
n. ICS Educational Courses (Sharm El-Sheikh & Bucharest)	2010
o. EAU ‘Leading Lights in Urology’ meeting	2010
p. Tutor of Urologists and Urology trainees in Industry-sponsored Clinical workshops	2016-21
<b>B. Trainer in minimally invasive Urological procedures</b>	
1. Intradetrusor Botox injections	

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|--|---------|
| a. II Curso Internacional Cirugía de Incontinencia Urinaria y suelo Pélvico      | Feb. 07 |
| b. 3 <sup>rd</sup> European Masterclass on the use of Botulinum toxin in Urology | Jan. 08 |
| c. Investigator meeting 191622-518 Allergan study                                | Oct. 07 |
| d. Workshop: Botulinum toxin A intradetrusor injections                          |         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> International Neurourology Meeting, Zurich                       | Aug.14  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> International Neurourology Meeting, Zurich                       | Aug.15  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> International Neurourology Meeting, Zurich                       | Jan. 17 |
- C. Training of Continenace advisors and post-CCST fellows in Urodynamics, Neurourology and Female Urology** 2007-21
- D. Visiting Professor in the multicentre Educational research programme TRUST (Training Urology Scientists to develop Treatments)** 2013-14
- A project combining educational/research activities of 8 European Universities and 3 Private companies, aiming to train young researchers on Functional Urology and promote their further research activity. Visits at Maastricht University Hospital, UZA Antwerp, KU Leuven and Astellas Pharma Europe in Leiden, The Netherlands.

#### Research activities

**(Total funding in grants 2007-2019: 1,054,761 Euro)**

- **11/98 – 1/00 Participation in the research project: “Organisation and Function of a centre for Sexual Dysfunction, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki”**
  - 11/98 – 5/99 Scientific Head of the Educational activities of the Centre for Sexual Dysfunction (information and education of medical doctors, nurses, patient associations)
  - 6/99 – 1/00 Scientific Head of the Research programme of the Centre for Sexual Dysfunction (recording of the first epidemiological data on the prevalence of sexual dysfunctions in Greece, running protocols on the efficacy and safety of current and novel treatments for erectile dysfunction in various patient categories)
  
- **2/00 – 8/00 Participation in a collaborative inter-University project (PENED 99EΔ635) with the University of Patras** aiming to develop a system for the objective evaluation of the mechanical properties of the prostate
  
- **1999-2001 Sub-investigator in multicentre trials** investigating the efficacy and safety of novel treatments for erectile dysfunction.  
Synopsis of work: Results were published in articles about the role of novel treatments for the prevention of erectile dysfunction
  
- **7/02 – 6/03 One-year scholarship from the EUSP** (European Urological Scholarship Programme) based on a project entitled “Primary afferent mechanisms in human detrusor overactivity and the human hypersensitive bladder – An immunohistochemical study” which took part at the Hammersmith Hospital and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, UK.  
Synopsis of results: Results showed for the first time increased immunohistochemical expression of sensory receptors in the urothelium and suburothelium of human overactive bladder, mainly of neurogenic aetiology, as well as of angiogenesis markers, and were

included in a number of presentations in international conferences with distinctions, and publications which were awarded with the **John Blandy award (Best publications for the year 2004 in the British Journal of Urology International)**

- **7/03 – 12/06 Research activities at University College London**
  - Research fellow, Institute of Neurology, UCL, London, UK
  - Clinical research assistant, The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery, Department of Uro-Neurology, London, UK
  - Research fellow, Peripheral Neuropathy Unit, The Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College London, London, UK
  - Research fellow, Institute of Urology & Nephrology, UCL, London, UK

Synopsis of work: Continuation of the work of the EUSP scholarship year carrying out clinical and basic research of the physiology and pathophysiology of neurogenic and non-neurogenic bladders, as well as of the mechanisms of action of alternative treatments for the overactive bladder/urinary incontinence. During this time, the candidate was main worker in the following research projects:

- Electrophysiological and morphological characteristics of a tension receptor of the urinary bladder
- Afferent cholinergic innervation of the bladder
- The mechanism of action of Botulinum toxin when used to treat the overactive bladder
- The mechanism of action of resiniferatoxin when used the neurogenic and the hypersensitive bladder

Results of this research were presented in a number of conferences receiving distinctions and published in high IF journals (**Platinum Priority articles in European Urology** and several full papers in international medical literature)

- **01/07 – 2015 Principal investigator in multicentre phase II-IV clinical trials in the AUTH** investigating the application, efficacy and safety of novel treatments for the overactive bladder/urinary incontinence of neurogenic and non-neurogenic aetiology:
  - A Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group, 12-week study, for the evaluation of the efficacy and safety of fesoterodine compared to tolterodine ER in patients with overactive bladder (**1/7/2007-31/12/2008, total funding 33,548.16€**)
  - A Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study for the evaluation of the efficacy and safety of fesoterodine as add-on therapy in men with persistent overactive bladder symptoms who are treated with an alpha-blocker for LUTS (**1/3/2009-12/12/2009, total funding 12,140.20€**)
  - A Randomized, Double-blind, Parallel Group, Placebo and Active Controlled, Multicenter Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of the Beta-3 Agonist YM178 (50 mg qd and 100 mg qd) in Subjects with Symptoms of Overactive Bladder (**6/6/2008-5/9/2009, total funding 31,891.00€**)
  - A Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel Group, Active Controlled, Multicenter Long-term Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of the Beta-3 Agonist YM178 (50 mg qd and 100 mg qd) in Subjects with Symptoms of Overactive Bladder (**1/4/2008-30/6/2012, total funding 14,631.33€**)
  - A Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group study to investigate the dose-response of three doses of purified neurotoxin complex BOTOX<sup>®</sup> (Botulinum toxin type A) followed by an open-label extension phase in patients with urinary incontinence due to neurogenic detrusor overactivity (**1/3/2008-30/9/2010, total funding 15,106.00€**)



- A phase II clinical study to evaluate daily oral doses of LY500307 for 24 weeks in men with Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS) and Prostatic enlargement secondary to Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) (17/9/2010-16/9/2013, total funding 23,774.66€)
- A comparative study of the efficacy of Duodart in combination with lifestyle advice versus Watchful Waiting combined with lifestyle advice and the optional addition of tamsulosin in men with benign prostatic enlargement and moderate BPH symptoms who are treatment-naive (17/9/2010-16/9/2013, total funding 44,386.85€)
- A 12-week, phase 4, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel group, multicentre trial in overactive bladder subjects to confirm the efficacy of 8mg fesoterodine compared to 4mg fesoterodine (13/9/2011-13/9/2012, total funding 7,907.15€)
- A Double-Blind, Randomized, Parallel Group, Multi-Centre Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Mirabegron Compared to Solifenacin in Subjects with Overactive Bladder (OAB) Treated with Antimuscarinics and Dissatisfied due to Lack of Efficacy (1/6/2012-30/9/2014, total funding 4,043.08€)
- A Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel-Group, Placebo- and Active- Controlled, Multi-center Study to Evaluate the Efficacy, Safety and Tolerability of Combinations of Solifenacin Succinate and Mirabegron Compared to Solifenacin Succinate and Mirabegron Monotherapy in the Treatment of Overactive Bladder (1/6/14 – 31/13/16, total funding 658.75€)
- A PHASE 3 STUDY CONSISTING OF A 12-WEEK RANDOMIZED, OPEN-LABEL, ACTIVE CONTROL PERIOD FOLLOWED BY A 12-WEEK SAFETY EXTENSION PERIOD TO EVALUATE THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF FESOTERODINE IN SUBJECTS AGED 8 TO 16 YEARS AND >25 KG WITH NEUROGENIC BLADDER (17/3/14 – ongoing, total funding 3,771.44€)
- Non-Interventional Study Assessing Quality of Life, Treatment Satisfaction, Resource Utilisation, and Persistence with Treatment in Overactive Bladder (OAB) Patients Prescribed Betmiga™ -A Multicenter Non-interventional Post Authorisation Study (PAS)(1/11/14 – 30/9/16, total funding 17,103.40€)

- **01/08 – today      Scientific Head of the project “Centre for the Study of Continence and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction”, Aristotle University Thessaloniki.**

Synopsis: The project aims at the promotion of research and the production of new knowledge, teaching and information of the public, patients and physicians on incontinence and accompanying LUTS and pelvic floor dysfunctions. One of the first publications coming from this project received the **Platinum Priority article distinction in the European Urology journal**, together with several presentations in national and international congresses. Several young Urologists/research fellows and collaborators/nurses have been trained via this project on Neurourology, Female Urology and Male incontinence. The project is ongoing having started since 1/1/2008 with currently projected end 31/8/2021 and **total funding to date is 432,999.83€.**

- **01/07 – 9/15      Collaboration in basic research projects with the Institute of Neurology (IoN), London, UK.**

Synopsis: Sub-investigator or Principal investigator in projects aiming to map for the first time receptors, such as muscarinic and cannabinoid receptors in the human bladder wall and to identify the mechanism of action of novel treatments, such as botulinum toxin.

Titles of projects:

- Cholinergic signaling pathways in the superficial layers of the human bladder; comparing health, disease and the effect of Botulinum Toxin Type A (sub-investigator – thesis subject for Urologist S.N.Dasgupta)
- Is the effect of BoNT/A injected into the wall of the overactive human bladder partly exerted via suburothelial myofibroblasts? An immunohistochemical study (sub-investigator – corresponding author in the respective publication)
- Changes of Nerve Growth Factor (NGF) levels in the urine and of NGF and vanilloid receptor (TRPV1) in bladder biopsy following open label treatment with botulinum neurotoxin type A in patients with neurogenic detrusor overactivity (DO) and idiopathic detrusor overactivity (part of the European multicentre FP7 project InComb – sub-investigator)
- The use of cannabinoid receptor agonist in the treatment of urological symptoms in patients with neurogenic detrusor overactivity (Principal investigator – collaboration between AUTH and IoN)

• **2009 – today                    Principal investigator in original clinical and basic research projects (investigator-initiated research) at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**

Synopsis: Investigation of clinical aspects and pathophysiological mechanisms involved in urinary incontinence and LUTS, as well as of the mechanisms of action of established and novel treatments (antimuscarinics, BOTOX, cannabinoids). Further aims to promote Departmental collaborations within the AUTH, but also Inter-University collaborations.

Projects which have been completed or ongoing are as follows:

- Does the use of incontinence protection affect the quality of sexual life and the self-image of incontinent women? The effect of antimuscarinics (collaboration with the University of Patras) **(duration 4/11/2010-30/9/2015, total funding 45,441.23€)**
- The use of Botulinum toxin type A as palliative treatment in functional disorders of the lower urinary tract (2007-2013)
- Investigating the role of the cholinergic pathways in the development of LUTS associated with BPH and the overactive bladder (collaboration with the Urology department of Hoppokration Hospital of Thessaloniki and the Molecular Urology Lab of the Pharmacology department and the Pathology lab of the AUTH)
- Psychosocial factors associated with the perception of health and treatment seeking for LUTS **(1/3/2011-30/7/2013, total funding 30,758.10€)**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Clinical Workshop on Functional and Reconstructive Urology **(14/4/2011-13/4/2013, total funding 10,614.53€)**
- The use of single-fibre EMG to investigate potential distant spread of Botulinum toxin following its injection in the human bladder (1/3/2014-29/2/2016)
- Investigating the pathophysiology of the urinary tract and the mechanism of action of applied and experimental treatments of the overactive bladder and urgency incontinence **(funding from an FP7 2007-2013 operational programme “Training and lifelong learning”, co-funded by the EU and Greece, action ‘ARISTEIA’, acronym AVLOS) (project duration 26/9/2012-25/9/2015, total funding 302,395.98€)**
- Evaluation of the diagnostic value of DNA methylation markers in the urine of patients with bladder cancer **(2014-2017, funding from the project “Centre for the Study of Continence and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction”)**
- The prevalence of DNA methylation markers in the urine of patients with neurogenic lower urinary tract dysfunction (2018-19, funding from the project “Centre for the Study of Continence and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction”)

- Effect of pelvic ischemia on lower urinary tract function. A study of clinical parameters and molecular markers (2018-21, funding from the project “**Centre for the Study of Continence and Pelvic Floor Dysfunction**”)
  
- **2012 - 2016 Scientific Head of the Molecular Urology Lab hosted at the Pharmacology Department of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**  
 The Lab’s personnel comprised dedicated researchers – 2 molecular biologists, a post-graduate student, and a Urology research fellow - and external collaborators. The techniques applied included real-time RT-PCR, Western Blotting, cell cultures, immunohistochemistry and DNA methylation both in human and animal tissues. Animal models of spinal cord injury, MS, diabetes mellitus and ageing have or will be used in current and future projects. Collaborations are standing with the Pharmaceutical Department (Lab of Pharmaceutical Chemistry), Biology Department (Zoology Dept, Lab of animal physiology) and Chemistry department (Lab of analytical chemistry), allowing for the use of specialized techniques such as radiolabelling and protein detection in animal and human tissues, organ baths and electrophysiology techniques. Three PhD thesis projects were based on the work carried out in the Molecular Urology Lab
  
- **2016 – ongoing Collaboration with the Department of Biological chemistry, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.**  
 The techniques applied include real-time RT-PCR, Western Blotting, DNA methylation and Elisa assay both in human and animal tissues from diabetic and aged animal models. Application of DNA methylation and Elisa assays in human urine aims at the identification of biological markers for the diagnosis of bladder cancer as well as inflammation and ischemia of the bladder wall. Work in the lab supports one MD and 3 PhD thesis projects.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CITATIONS: 4,662**

(Publish or Perish system, based on Google Scholar data)

Analysis of citations:

- 77 full papers in PubMed/Scopus with 4,533 citations (67 papers cited)
- 3 full papers in non-PubMed/Scopus journals with 1 citaion (one paper cited)
- 53 papers in Greek Medical journals with 1 citaion (one paper cited)
- 110 abstracts published in PubMed/Scopus journals with 72 citations (22 abstracts cited)
- 9 book chapters in international literature with 55 citations (4 chapters cited)

<b>Hirsh (H-index ή H-factor)</b>	<b>33</b>
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