**Biographies of teachers**

-**Helen Skaltsa**, Professor of Pharmacognosy and Chemistry of Natural Products, Department of Pharmacy, NKUA, has been working in the field of chemistry of natural products and pharmacognosy for 40 years. She is Editor-in Chief of Phytochemistry, one of the leading international journals in the research field. She supervised 16 Ph.D., > 65 M.Sc., and many diploma theses, while more are in progress. She has 220 publications in international scientific journals and more than 230 presentations at Congresses/Conferences (h-index:45; citations >7500). She was Vice Dean of the Department of Pharmacy, NKUA (2017-2020).

-**Prof. Georgia Valsami** is Professor of Biopharmaceutics & Pharmacokinetics, Department of Pharmacy, NKUA. Her research activities focus on: i) drug protein and macromolecule binding and effect on drug solubility/dissolution/absorption, ii) development of novel dosage forms with optimized absorption, iii) pre-clinical and clinical PK/PD studies, iv) development/validation/application of analytical methods for drug assay in biological fluids, v) individualization of drug therapy. She has contributed to numerous peer reviewed journal articles, conferences presentations and lectures at National and International conferences (h-index 27; citations >2500). She has contributed to numerous research programs funded by National and EU organisations.

-**Dr. Efstathia Ioannou** is an Associate Professor at the Section of Pharmacognosy and Chemistry of Natural Products of the Department of Pharmacy at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Her research activities focus on isolation, structure elucidation and biological activity evaluation of new natural products mainly from marine macro- and microorganisms.

-**Natassa Pippa**, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Technology, Department of Pharmacy, NKUA. She is working in the field of pharmaceutical technology. Her experience includes the design and development of lipid-based and polymer-based nanoparticles for drug delivery and targeting. She has also knowledge in several techniques for the physicochemical, morphological, and thermodynamic characterization of drug delivery systems and nanoformulations. She supervises 3 Ph.D. students. She has 120 publications in peer-reviewed international journals, 15 chapters in scientific books, and more than 100 presentations at Greek and International Conferences (Scopus h-index:27, Google scholar h-index: 29).

-**Dr. Stefanos Kikionis** is an Assistant Professor at the Section of Pharmacognosy and Chemistry of Natural Products, Department of Pharmacy, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. His current research focuses on the isolation, characterization and exploitation of bioactive secondary metabolites and biopolymers from marine organisms as well as the investigation and development of nanofibrous bioactive scaffolds from marine natural products for drug release, wound healing and tissue engineering applications.

-**Ekaterina-Michaela Tomou** (M.Sc., Ph.D.) is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Pharmacognosy & Chemistry of Natural Products, Department of Pharmacy (NKUA). Her Ph.D. project was funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation and her research is focused on the phytochemical analysis of various medicinal plants. She was selected as CIVIS ambassador 2021-2022 for NKUA, and she also participated in the UNICA conference 2021. She has been trained at the following universities abroad: (i) Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences at the TUM Campus (Germany), (ii) Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, University of Florence (Italy), and (iii) University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy).

-**Paraskevi Papakyriakopoulou** is a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Department Pharmacy (NKUA) and the School of Chemical Engineering (NTUA). She received her Doctorate in October 2023, which was funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation and focused on the development and in vitro/ in vivo evaluation of nasal films as nose-to-brain delivery systems in neurodegenerative diseases. She has participated in the Erasmus Traineeship program both as a recent graduate at the University of Ferrara and as a PhD student at Trinity College of Dublin, respectively. Additionally, she is a co-author of 27 publications in esteemed peer-reviewed journals. Her work has been presented in several poster and oral presentations, and she has received the Best Abstract Award in the PharmSci360 conference of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

- **Prof. Daniela De Vita** is Associate Professor of Biology and Pharmaceutical Botany at Sapienza University of Rome. Her scientific activity is mainly focused on the phytochemistry of medicinal and aromatic plants, with particular attention to the isolation and characterization of bioactive compounds and the evaluation of their biological properties. She is the author of over 80 scientific publications in peer-reviewed international journals and has contributed to various national and international research projects. Prof. De Vita also teaches courses in pharmaceutical botany and medicinal plants, actively promoting the integration of traditional knowledge with modern scientific approaches.

-**Carmela Calés-Bourdet** is professor at the Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine at Universidad Autónoma of Madrid (UAM). Her research interests have evolved from oncogenes and cell cycle control, to study the role of epigenetic regulators and the effect of new antitumoral drugs in hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells.

-**Heike Brötz-Oesterhelt** is professor for Microbiology at the University of Tübingen, heading the Department of Microbial Bioactive Compounds. She is co-speaker of the Cluster of Excellence “Controlling Microbes to Fight Infection”, and deputy speaker of the partner site Tübingen within the German Center of Infection Research (DZIF). Her main research interest lies in molecular mechanisms of new antibiotic agents.

-**Dr. Hughes** was born and raised in bucolic western New York, USA. In 1999 he graduated with a B.S. in biochemistry and a minor in Latin from Geneseo College. In 2004 he completed a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, with Prof. Dirk Trauner. Chambers was the first member of the then-nascent Trauner research group to earn a doctorate. Next, Dr. Hughes held an extended postdoctoral/research associate appointment with Prof. William Fenical at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. In 2012 Hughes was hired as assistant professor at Scripps. He then joined his family, in 2019, in Tübingen and is currently a Research Group Leader in the Department of Microbial Bioactive Compounds at the University of Tübingen.

-**Lavinia Ruta** is a lecturer at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Chemistry, with dual expertise in pharmacy and chemistry. Her research primarily focuses on applied biochemistry and molecular biology, particularly on understanding the molecular mechanisms that govern yeast cells' response to environmental stress. Her research also delves into the pro-oxidant and antioxidant activities of organic compounds. Furthermore, she is involved in a project on wound healing and monitoring using smart hydrogels. Beyond her scientific research, she participates in social projects that examine the pharmacological and toxicological aspects of recreational drug use among young people.

-**Prof. Ling Peng** is a research director in the Interdisciplinary Center on Nanoscience in Marseille (CINaM) at the French National Scientific Research Center (CNRS) in France. She is a leading scientist in dendrimer science and has pioneered the concept of self-assembling supramolecular dendrimers for delivering drugs, nucleic acid therapeutics and imaging agents. Her research team has been labelled by La Ligue Contre Le Cancer in France since 2016. Dr. Ling Peng was awarded with the Prize of Dr & Mme Henri Labbé of the French Academy of Sciences and the Distinguished Member of French Chemical Society.

-**Dr. Nefeli Lagopati** is an Assistant Professor in Biology-Nanomedicine at the Laboratory of Biology, at the Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). She performed her PhD at the Faculty of Biology, NKUA, in cooperation with the NCSR "Demokritos". She graduated from the Faculty of Physics, NKUA and received MSc in Radiation Physics, MSc in Advanced Materials and MSc in Technoeconomic Systems. Her main research activities focus on the investigation of the anticancer effect of various nanomaterials. She served as a Substitute board member of the Hellenic Public Health Organization and as a consultant of the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation. Her work is reflected in a significant number of scientific publications and presentations at Congresses/Conferences (Google Scholar, h-index 23).

-**Prof. Yahya Choonara** is Professor Yahya Choonara is internationally recognised as an outstanding global Pharmaceutical Scientist working at the forefront of producing life-saving medicines. He is a South African DSI/NRF Research Chair and co-founded the Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform (WADDP) (<https://www.wits.ac.za/waddp>), a flagship research unit, and  Africa’s only fully integrated platform in its domain focused on designing Nanomedicine, Advanced Drug Delivery Systems, Functional Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicines. He has published >376 papers in the field (H-index> = 60), mentored/trained >112 graduates and is an inventor on 28 internationally granted patents in the pharmaceutical sciences.

-**Prof. H. Muiambo** (UEM), born on 11 May 1979 in Maputo, Mozambique. PhD D Chemistry, University of Pretoria, South Africa. Associate Professor, Material Sciences, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique. Research interests in Polymer Processing, Solid waste recycling, Nanotechnology. Director for Planning, Quality Assurance and Institutional Research, UEM. Academia-Industry Collaboration and Technology Transfer Specialist. Speaks English, Portuguese.

-**Dr. Anywar Godwin** has a PhD in Ethnopharmacology and Botany. He is a lecturer at Makerere University, a fellow of various prestigious programs, and recipient of several awards. He is the vice president of the Natural Products Network for Eastern & Central Africa, Uganda Chapter, and an active editor and researcher. He has authored over 100 papers in international per-reviewed scientific journals and has an h-index of 21. He has supervised 2 PhD students to competition and is currently supervising 5 PhD students.

-**Dr. Maria Marinescu** is a lecturer at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Chemistry. Her initial studies focused on the chemistry and the electronic structure of the 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8-octahydroacridine compounds, as a key structures for the new biomolecules and hydrogen-bonding receptors. She led a project on advanced materials based on push-pull extended π-conjugated azo-chromophores in functional matrices with enhanced NLO properties. Currently, her research interests are in organic synthesis of various heterocycles with applications in medicinal and materials chemistry, DFT studies in organic molecules related with their biological properties and applications of organic materials in art and archaeology.

-**Prof. Evi Stegmann** is a Professor of Microbiology at the University of Tübingen. Her research focuses on the microbial biosynthesis of natural products, particularly antibiotics and other bioactive secondary metabolites. She investigates biosynthetic pathways, regulatory networks, and export mechanisms, as well as employing synthetic biology approaches to modulate natural product formation. Prof. Stegmann supervises numerous Ph.D. and M.Sc. projects. Her work has been published in leading scientific journals and has significantly contributed to the understanding of microbial natural product biosynthesis. She is actively involved in national and international research collaborations.

- **Dr. Mohammed Berrada** is Professor of Organic Chemistry and Polymer Science at Hassan II University of Casablanca. His research focuses on: (i) advanced drug delivery systems, (ii) pharmaceutical nanotechnology, and (iii) bioactive natural products. With more than 90 publications (h-index: 29, citations >3,500), he has led nationally/internationally funded projects and mentors graduate students. His work bridges nanomedicine and natural therapeutics.

-**Dr. Martina Bortolami** obtained her Master Degree in Pharmacy with 110/110 cum laude at Sapienza University of Rome in 2016. In the same University, at the Department of Chemistry and Technology of Drug, she obtained her PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2019. Afterwards, she worked as Postdoctoral Researcher on organic and electro-organic synthesis at the Department of Basic and Applied Sciences for Engineering. In 2025 she became Tenure Track Researcher at the Department of Environmental Biology. During her research activity she worked in the fields of pharmaceutical chemistry, organic electrosynthesis and phytochemistry, with the aim of developing new molecules and chemical procedures or characterizing natural matrices of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical interest.

- **Luca Santi** is Full Professor of Pharmaceutical Biology at Sapienza University of Rome. Trained as a biologist with a PhD from the Max Planck Institute in Cologne, he has led international research in plant biotechnology and phytochemical applications. His work focuses on natural bioactive compounds for nutraceutical and pharmaceutical use, including spices, agro-industrial by-products, and tryptamines from mushrooms. He has authored over 60 scientific publications, holds four patents, has received awards for teaching excellence, and plays an active role in institutional initiatives for university public outreach. He actively collaborates with research institutions and universities in Europe, Asia, and the United States.
-**Fabio Sciubba** is associate professor in Pharmaceutical Biology, at the Department of Environmental Biology of Sapienza University of Rome. Expert in the structural characterization of bioactive molecules of plant origin, in the metabolomics of plant and food matrices and in the metabolomics of biofluids using high-resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy. Partner of the academic startup ViVita S.r.L., a company operating in the production of basic pharmaceutical products starting from by-products of agricultural production. He is the author of approximately 150 publications (h-index: 27 Scopus source) in international peer-reviewed journals.

-**Dr. Chiara Toniolo** is a researcher at Sapienza University of Rome and holds the Italian national qualification as Associate Professor. She graduated in Pharmacy at Sapienza and later completed a Ph.D. in Environmental and Evolutionary Biology, with a specialization in Botany, in 2016. She held two postdoctoral positions and has been lecturing since 2017 in academic courses such as Applied Pharmaceutical Botany and Pharmaceutical Biology. Author of 46 scientific publications, she has presented at national and international congresses and supervised 15 theses. Her research focuses on officinal plants, biodiversity, phytochemical characterization, botanicals, and pharmaceutical biology.

-**Prof. Rino Ragno** is Full Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the Department of Chemistry and Technology of Drugs, Sapienza University of Rome. He holds a degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology and completed postdoctoral research at Washington University in St. Louis. He founded and coordinates a new research laboratory named “Rome Center for Molecular Design” (RCMD) and developed online platforms such as 3D-QSAR.com and eo.3d-qsar.com. His research focuses on computational drug design, essential oil analysis, and machine learning applications in medicinal chemistry. He has authored 169 international publications.

-**Prof. Annabella Vitalone** graduated in Pharmacy (1996) and obtained a PhD in Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy and Toxicology (2003) and a Specialization in Pharmacology (2006). She worked in Pharmacy and in academic institutions in the USA and Italy. Currently she is Associate Professor at the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology “V. Erspamer”, Sapienza University of Rome, and holds the national qualification as full professor. Her research focuses on the regulation, safety, and pharmacological effects of medicinal plants. She teaches Pharmacognosy, Phytotherapy and Phytovigilance, is President of the Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences course and Director of the Master in Integrated Medicine.