

Athanasios Kotsakis

Athanasios Kotsakis was born in Athens in 1968 and is married with 3 children. He studied Medicine at the University of Athens and continued his training in Internal Medicine at the Dpt. of Therapeutics, University Hospital "ALEXANDRA", Athens, Greece. He completed his training in Medical Oncology at the Dpt. of Medical Oncology, University General Hospital of Heraklion, Greece.

Prof. Kotsakis received his PhD degree "**Prospective study of the impact of the anticancer drugs on T-cell lymphocytes**" from the School of Medicine of University of Crete in 2008. From 2008-2011 he was appointed as a Research Fellow in the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Dpt of Medical Oncology, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA & in **Dpt of Immune Monitoring and Cellular Processing Laboratory (IMCPL), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA**

He was nominated Lecturer of Medical Oncology at the Medical School of University of Crete in 2009 and Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology in 2014 at the same University and in 2017 elected Associate Professor of Medical Oncology, School of medicine, University of Thessaly. He is also the **President of Hellenic Society of Immuno-Oncology** since 2015, coordinator in the lung cancer group of the Hellenic Oncology Research Group (HORG) since 2014 and **Faculty Member of Tumour Immunology and Immunotherapy of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)**. Prof. Kotsakis is a member of various International Scientific Societies including the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the International Association for the study of Lung Cancer (IALSC) & EORTC (European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer).

Prof. Kotsakis has an extensive experience and was one of the inventors who investigated the use of cabazitaxel in patients with metastatic NSCLC progressing after docetaxel-based treatment. He has also an extensive experience in conducting clinical trials and he has published more than 100 peer reviewed research papers. He has also been an invited speaker at a number of national and international scientific meetings. Prof. Kotsakis is a reviewer of several international medical journals and serves on the editorial board of several journals.

Current Position

Associate Professor of Medical Oncology, School of Medicine, University of Thessaly.

Head of the Dpt of Medical Oncology, University Hospital of Larisa.

Research activities - Publications

Textbook Chapters	6
Publications in Medical Journals (SCI)	104
Publications in Medical Journals (non SCI)	9
Abstracts in International Congresses	168
Granted patents	1
Speeches in Round Tables-Scientific Meetings	80
Participation in Seminars	11

Impact factor - Citation analysis

h-index

Scopus	25
Google Scholar	29
Total Citations	2924

Academic memberships

1. European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)
Faculty member of Tumour Immunology and Immunotherapy
2. Member of the EORTC (European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer) Lung Cancer Group
3. Member of the ETOP (European Thoracic Oncology Platform)
4. HORG (Hellenic Oncology Research Group)
Coordinator of Lung Cancer Group
5. HeSIO (Hellenic Society of ImmunoOncology)
President
6. Member of Research Evaluation Committee of the French National Cancer Institute
7. Member of Research Evaluation Committee of the Health Research Board Dublin, Ireland
8. Member of Research Evaluation Committee of the American University of Beirut, NY, USA

Awards

1. 2008: Scholarship (Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology) for post specialization training in the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Department of Medical Oncology, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
2. 2010: Scholarship (Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology) for post specialization training in the University of Pittsburgh, Department of Immune Monitoring and Cellular Processing Laboratory (IMCPL), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
3. 2011: 1st award for the work entitled "Clinical and immunologic response of patients with advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) vaccinated with an optimized cryptic hTERT peptide (Vx-001)", Kotsakis A., Vetsika E.K., Agouraki D, et al., Advances and Perspectives in Thoracic and upper Aerodigestive Malignancies 10-13 March 2011, Athens, Greece.
4. 2011: 1st award (Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology) for the work entitled "A phase II study of bortezomib in combination with doxorubicin in recurrent or metastatic adenoid cystic carcinoma of the head and neck", Kotsakis A, Argiris A. Forum of Clinical Oncology (issue 2, vol 2, June 2011).
5. 2016: 1st award (Hellenic Society of Immuno-Oncology) for the work entitled "CD8+ PD-1+ T cells association with PD-L1+ circulating tumour cells (CTC): An independent prognostic factor in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients", Vetsika E.-K., Aggouraki D., Lyristi Z., Kallergi G., Katsarlinos P., Koinis F., Georgoulas V., Kotsakis A." 2nd Symposium "Advances in cancer immunology and immunotherapy, December 15-17 2016, Athens, Greece
6. 2017: 1st award (Hellenic Society of Immuno-Oncology) for the work entitled " Prognostic value of PD-L1+CD4+ T cells in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients treated with a PD-1 inhibitor", Eleni-Kyriaki

Vetsika, Despoina Aggouraki, Zacharoula Lyrusti, Filippos Koinis, Vassilis Georgoulas, Athanasios Kotsakis,"
3rd Symposium "Advances in cancer immunology and immunotherapy, November 2-4 2017, Athens, Greece

Research Activity

Clinical Research

Clinical Studies

Greece

Dpt of Medical Oncology, University General Hospital of Heraklion, Crete

a) **International multicenter clinical studies:** Principal Investigator: **19** & Sub Investigator: **144**

b) **Investigator sponsored trials:** Principal Investigator: **4** & Sub Investigator: **10**

USA

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center- Pennsylvania, USA

Investigator sponsored trials: Sub Investigator: **10**

Laboratory Research

USA (09/2009-8/2011)

Investigation of immune suppressive mechanisms in cancer patients.

Department of Immune Monitoring and Cellular Processing Laboratory (IMCPL)- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

Trial as Principal Investigator: Prospective study of the effects of chemoradiotherapy on regulatory T-cells (Treg) in patients with locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck

GREECE 09/2011- present

Supervisor of the Immunology Group; **Laboratory of Translational Oncology, School of Medicine, University of Crete.**

Research programs

1. Detection and characterization of Immune Suppressive Cells (MDSCs and Tregs) in metastatic NSCLC patients:
 - a) The effect of chemotherapy, b) The effect of Bevacizumab- contained treatment
2. Detection and characterization of B regulatory and Th17 cells in metastatic NSCLC patients.
3. Assessment of the immune responses in patients with various types of chemo-resistant advanced solid tumours after vaccination with the therapeutic telomerase –specific vaccine Vx-006
4. The effect of salvage treatment with the combination of everolimus/exemestane on Immune Suppressive Cells (MDSCs and Tregs) and effector cells in metastatic breast cancer patients.
5. Correlation of immune and immunosuppressive cells with Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) in metastatic breast cancer patients.
6. Phenotypic characterization and evaluation of the levels of Immune effector cells (Dendritic Cells, CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T-helper cells) and immune suppressive cells (Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells; MDSCs and T Regulatory cells; Tregs) in patients with metastatic colorectal carcinoma (CRC) and correlation with the outcome of the disease.
7. Correlation of the levels of Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) with the immune cell profile (immune effector and suppressive cell populations) in patients with metastatic colorectal carcinoma.
8. Detection, characterization and functional evaluation of the immune suppressive cell populations (MDSCs, Tregs, Th17 and Bregs) in patients with advanced Small-Cell Lung (SCLC) cancer and correlation with the outcome.
9. Correlation of the levels of Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) with immune effector and suppressive cell populations in patients with metastatic SCLC.
10. Evaluation of PD-1 and PD-L1 expression on circulating tumor cells, circulating immune cells and resected tumor in early NSCLC patients
11. A longitudinal study evaluating molecular changes associated with resistance to first and third (AZD9291) generation EGFR TKIs in patients with EGFR mutant NSCLC using "liquid biopsy

12. Evaluation of PD-1 and PD-L1 expression on CTCs and immune cells in patients with metastatic Non Small Cell Lung Cancer treated with front-line chemotherapy and immune check point inhibitors in the second-line setting.
13. Detection of RAS family and BRAF mutations in Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) in patients with metastatic Colorectal Cancer with or without mutations in the primary tumor who are treated with biological agents

Graduate and postgraduate supervision

PhD Supervision: **10**

MSc Supervision: **2**

Project Supervision: **6**

Research expeditions/Grants

1. Prospective study of the effects of chemoradiotherapy on regulatory T-cells (Treg) in patients with locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck. Department of Immune Monitoring and Cellular Processing Laboratory (IMCPL)- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, 2009, **Principal Investigator**
2. Use of cabazitaxel in patients with metastatic NSCLC progressing after docetaxel-based treatment, **Principal Investigator**, Patent Publication number: WO2015036507 A1, Applicant: Aventis Pharma S.A
3. Phenotypic characterization of CTCs and correlation with the Circulating Immune Cells in patients with Breast Cancer. **Principal Investigator**, Special Account for Research, University of Crete (ELKE), 2013
4. **Responsible of Monitoring, Training and Evaluation of the program** "Telesphoros: Physicians and nurses Training Program working in primary health care on the management and support of patients with cancer." Special Account for Research, University of Crete (ELKE) co- funded by the European Union (European Social Fund - ESF) and National resources, 2013
5. Detection of RAS family and BRAF mutations in Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) in patients with metastatic Colorectal Cancer with or without mutations in the primary tumor who are treated with biological agents. **Principal Investigator** Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology (HeSMO), 2014
6. A longitudinal study evaluating molecular changes associated with resistance to first and third (AZD9291) generation EGFR TKIs in patients with EGFR mutant NSCLC using "liquid biopsy", **Principal Investigator & National Coordinator**, AstraZeneca, 2016
7. Evaluation of PD-1 and PD-L1 expression on circulating tumor cells, circulating immune cells and resected tumor in early NSCLC patients. **Principal Investigator**. Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology (HeSMO), 2016
8. Evaluation of PD-1 and PD-L1 expression on CTCs and immune cells in patients with metastatic Non Small Cell Lung Cancer treated with front-line chemotherapy and immune check point inhibitors in the second-line setting. **Principal Investigator** Special Account for Research, University of Crete (ELKE), 2016
9. Incidence of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) in Crete during the period 2003-2014 and prospective evaluation of the clinical practice for the molecular characterization of the disease (period 2015-2016) (ARIADNE study), **Principal Investigator**, 2016, Novartis
10. Evaluation of non-small cell lung carcinoma heterogeneity by using liquid biopsy **Principal Investigator**, AstraZeneca, 2016

Research collaborations

1. Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, University of Athens (Professor, E. Lianidou)
2. Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens, (Researcher A. Klinakis)
3. Department of Immune Monitoring and Cellular Processing Laboratory- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA (Professor T.L Whiteside)
4. Department of Animal and Human Physiology, Faculty of Biology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Prof. O Tsitsilonis)
5. Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Center, Saint Savas Hospital (Prof. C.N.Baxevanis)
6. Department of Pathology, University Hospital of Larisa, Greece (Prof. G. Koukoulis)

Organization of international conferences

Chair of the Organizing committee

- 23- 29/ 7/ 2012 5o SUMMER SCHOOL "Summer Courses in Oncology", Inter-university meeting, Heraklion Crete
- 13 /10/2012 Greek Young Oncologists Meeting: Tumor Immunology for Medical Oncologists, Ledra Marriott Hotel, Athens, Greece
- 28/2-1/3 - 2014 Best of World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC), Radisson Blu Park Hotel, Athens
- 27-30 /1/ 2015 **Preceptorship in Clinical and Translational Cancer Research.** Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, School of Medicine, University of Crete.
- 21-22 /5/2015 **Masterclass on Immuno- Oncology**, Radisson Blu Hotel, Athens
- 12-13 /6/ 2015 **Masterclass on Tumor Biomarkers**, Hotel Stratos Vassilakos Athens
- 30-31 /10/ 2015 **Advances in Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy**, Royal Olympic, Athens
- 12-15 /11/2015 Panhellenic Student Oncology Meeting 2015, Heraklion Crete
- 12-13 /5/ 2016 **Masterclass on Tumor Biomarkers**, Athens Ledra Hotel, Athens
- 20-21/5/2016 Overview on New Theories on Cancer: Theory and Practice, AMALIA Hotel, Nafplion
- 24 - 25 /6/2016 **Masterclass on Immuno-Oncology**, Golden Age Hotel Athens
- 15 -17 /12/2016 **2nd Symposium “Advances in Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy”**, Athens
- 3-4 /3/ 2017 "Best of IASLC 17th world conference on lung cancer", Athens
- 16 - 17 /6/ 2017 **Masterclass on Immuno-Oncology**, Athens
- 29-30 /9/ 2017 Masterclass – Recent Advances in the management of Infectious Diseases in immunocompromised patients with cancer, Athens
- 2-4/ 11/ 2017 **3rd Symposium “Advances in Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy”**, Athens
- 10-12 /6/ 2018 **1st Summer School in Immuno-Oncology**, Amalia Hotel Nafplio, Greece

co- Chair of the Organizing or Scientific committee

- 2007-2015 15^o, 19^o, 20^o, 21^o, 22^o & 23^o Postgraduate Congress of Clinical Oncology, Candia Maris,

Heraklion, Crete

- 27-29 /10/ 2011 19^o Postgraduate Congress of Clinical Oncology, Candia Maris, Heraklion, Crete
- 4-6 /4/ 2013 2nd International Symposium on Thoracic and Upper Aerodigestive Malignacies, Athens, Greece
- 4-10/11/ 2013 Panhellenic Medical Student meeting in Oncology 2013, Candia Maris, Heraklion, Crete
- 10/4- 12/4 2014 2nd Hellenic Oncology Conference (HeSMO), Hotel Porto Palace, Thessaloniki
- 9-11 /5/ 2014 Symposium on "Molecular Tackling Cancer: fighting the resistance», Amalia Hotel, Nafplio
- 13-18 /10/ 2014 **Preceptorship in Clinical and Translational Cancer Research**
University of Crete, School of Medicine
- 10-16 /11/2014 Panhellenic Medical Student meeting in Oncology 2014, Candia Maris, Heraklion, Crete
- 15-17 /12/ 2014 **Masterclass on circulating cells and molecular biomarkers**, University of Crete, School of Medicine.
- 8-10 /5/ 2015 Conference «Diagnostic and Therapeutic approaches of rare Tumors», Amalia Hotel, Nafplio.
- 11 - 12 /9/ 2015 Best of ASCO 2015, event in Greece
- 21-23 /4/ 2016 2nd Hellenic Oncology Conference (HeSMO), Hotel Du Lac, Ioannina
- 27-28/5/2016 Yearly update of advances in medical oncology 2015, Athens
- 23 - 24 /9/ 2016 Best of ASCO 2016, event in Greece, Athens
- 30/9-1/10/2016 Masterclass – Developments in Treating Infections of Neoplasia Patients, Hotel Radisson Blu Park, Athens
- 21-22/10/2016 Hellenic Multidisciplinary Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, Athens
- 24-27/10/2016 Preceptorship: Integrated Management of Cancer Patients, Laboratory of Translational Oncology, School of Medicine, University of Crete
- 6-9/4/ 2017 4th Symposium on Thoracic and Upper Aerodigestive Malignacies, Athens, Greece
- 5 - 6 /5/ 2017 Overview on New Theories on Cancer: Theory and Practice, AMALIA Hotel, Nafplion
- 2018 **Member of the Scientific Committee of "Immunotherapy of cancer" 43rd ESMO Congress (ESMO 2018).**