

**Dates:****2010-2014****Education:**

**DPhil:** Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford; **Thesis title:** “*Microcompartmentation of aldolase in Arabidopsis*”; This research project focused on how the subcellular distribution of aldolase can affect its function and contribute to regulation of metabolic or signaling pathways it participates in. **Supervisors:** Professor Lee J Sweetlove; Dr. Ian R Moore; Awarded: **Gatsby PhD Scholarship** for the duration of the DPhil.

**2006-2010**

**BSc:** Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, University of Thessaly, Greece; GPA 8.2/10.0

**Experience**

- **Research Experience**

**2015-**

**Post-doctoral researcher:** Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, University of Thessaly, Greece; Participating in the multinational TRIFORC consortium. Current role involves identification of novel, bioactive plant compounds, describing their biosynthetic pathways in plants using molecular and biochemical techniques and generating transgenic plant lines that accumulate these or derivative compounds in abundance, in order to facilitate their large-scale production and exploitation.

**May 2014**

**Research placement:** School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Durham University, UK; One-month research placement with Professor P.J. Hussey; Conducted research relevant to DPhil thesis and received training in advanced microscopy techniques (FRET-FLIM).

**Oct-Nov 2014**

**Research placement:** School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, UK; Two-month research placement with Professor A.M. Hetherington; Conducted research and received training in experiments related to plant stomatal guard cell physiology and function.

**2010-2014**

**DPhil Thesis research:** Conducted in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford. Research included a variety of molecular biology and biochemical techniques with emphasis on fluorescence-based microscopy techniques, generation and isolation of transgenic plant lines, protein-protein interaction techniques, site-directed mutagenesis, and recombinant protein expression in a variety of systems.

**Jan-May 2010**

**Undergraduate thesis project:** Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, University of Thessaly, Greece; “*Silencing of beta-amyrine synthase gene, AMY2, in roots of the model legume Lotus japonicus.*” **Supervisor:** Professor K. Papadopoulou

**Feb 2009-May 2010**

**Voluntary laboratory work:** Participated in the ongoing research project “*Synthesis and Role of Triterpenes in the Function and Development of Roots in the Model Legume Lotus japonicus.*” supervised by Professor K. Papadopoulou.

**July 2008-Aug 2008**

**Research Internship:** Hematology laboratory of the University Hospital of Larissa, Greece; Worked as an analytical laboratory assistant.

- **Training & Workshops**

**Sep 2014**

**Participated in “Biotechnology YES”:** A science entrepreneurship competition organised by the BBSRC and Syngenta, UK. The competition simulated the identification of an exploitable scientific finding in the field of plant sciences and its exploitation covering all stages from initial discovery, research and development of a marketable product, and final commercial strategy.

**2010-2014**

**Gatsby Training weekends:** Participated in five annual training weekends organized by the “Gatsby Charitable foundation for Plant Sciences” for funded graduate students. Included training in: science writing, presentations to specialist and non-specialist audiences, training in planning research projects and engagement in outreach activities.

**Reading, Writing, and Speaking in Science:** Two-month training course on how to effectively communicate science to specialist audiences for first year DPhil students; organized by Professor Liam Dolan, Dept. Plant Sciences, University of Oxford;

**2010-2011**

**Basic Plant Ecology and Evolution:** Two-month course organized by Dr. S. Harris, Dr. Caroline Pannell and the Oxford Botanic Gardens;

**Communicating Science to the Public:** Two-month course in communicating science to non-specialist audiences, including a presentation to pre-school children and one to A-level students, organized by the Oxford Botanic Gardens and Prof. Liam Dolan;

- **Science Outreach activities:**

**Fascination of Plants Day:** (2013) Participated in a group outreach effort held by members of the Dept. of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford, with stalls displaying various aspects of Plant Sciences and how such research can benefit society.

**Presentations to non-specialist audiences:** (2010-2011) Including pre-school children, A-level students, and non-academic staff of the Dept. of Plant Sciences.

### **Awards and Achievements**

**Awarded Gatsby PhD scholarship.** Competitive funding that required the submission of a written research proposal and defense of the proposed research plan, both of which were judged by senior academics. Covering all costs for the duration of doctoral studies and including various training and networking opportunities.

**Received best talk prize** at the Departmental Science Symposium (September 2013) held by the Dept. of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford;

**In top 10 of BSc graduating class;**

**Received 'Education First Award'** (2006), for graduating with the highest GPA of my class in high school senior year;

### **Publications**

Krokida A, Delis C, Geisler K, **Garagounis C**, Tsikou D, Pena-Rodriguez LM, et al. A metabolic gene cluster in *Lotus japonicus* discloses novel enzyme functions and products in triterpene biosynthesis. *The New phytologist*. 2013;200(3):675-90

*In preparation:*

Garagounis C, Kostaki KI, Hawkins TJ, Cummins I, Moore IR, Fricker MD, Hussey PJ, Hetherington AM and Sweetlove LJ, Microcompartmentation of cytosolic aldolase in *Arabidopsis*