



Konstantina BAMPALI

Finishing year: 2019

Supervisor: Margot Ernst,
Medical University of Vienna

Co-Supervisor: Harald Sitte,
Medical University of Vienna

Thesis title: Structural basis of
allosteric GABA_A receptor
modulation.

Current Position and

Employer: PostDoc in the
Center of Brain Research,
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MolTag alumni page:

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How would you summarize your thesis results in 3 sentences?

The aim was to improve the understanding of the molecular and structural rules which underlie allosteric modulation of GABA_A receptors, in part also applied to subtype selective ligands. Defining structural determinants of binding of characterized compounds, such as benzodiazepines, as well as binding site hypotheses were the main findings of my thesis work.

What are you doing now?

I am participating in the IMI Horizon 2020 research and innovation program and EFPIA: "Neurotoxicity De-Risking in Preclinical Drug Discovery".

What was the impact of the MolTag program on your further career?

The interdisciplinary nature of MolTag allowed me to grow my knowledge further and be more equipped for the challenging projects of my Postdoc studies. Most importantly, it has allowed me to establish invaluable connections and collaborations that not only reinforce my current research, but also provide immense support for my further career development.

What did you particularly like about the MolTag program?

I feel very lucky to have met wonderful people and brilliant scientists and grateful to have been part of such a cooperative and supportive environment. MolTag gave me the opportunity to have one of the greatest experiences of my life, which was a research internship at Harvard Medical School. I was able to gain amazing new experiences, grow my scientific skillset further, as well as meet distinguished scientists.

What is your recommendation for current MolTag PhD students?

Invest in building scientific, as well as personal relationships within MolTag and beyond. **Projects can become a lot stronger when you join forces!** Most of all, just enjoy it, and have fun!

