

## KONSTANTINA BITCHAVA

Laboratory of Fish, Shellfish and Crustacean Diseases  
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Veterinarian-ichthyopathologists, with ten years of experience in research and fourteen years of laboratory work.

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EDUCATION

**Post-doctoral research** **March 2015**

**Project Title:** Analysis of mechanisms of immunopathogenesis in natural and experimental infections of fish with Noda virus: Importance of the infection for public health.

**Ph.D., Fish Diseases, Laboratory of Fish Diseases and Aquaculture of the**

**Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece**

**March 2010**

**Thesis Title:** Study of the pathogenesis, pathology and susceptibility of different euryhaline fish species to Noda virus, raised under different salinity conditions.

**M.Sc., Aquaculture - Aquatic Animal Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in cooperation with the  
T.E.I of EPIRUS, Greece**

**May 2009**

**Thesis Title:** Development of real time PCR for an epidemiological survey of the presence of Noda virus in the Greek aquaculture and the titration of the virus in fish tissues.

**DVM, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly, Greece**

**June 2004**

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WORKING EXPERIENCE

- Sep. 2010 – Oct. 2016 I worked as a freelancer in the branch of the veterinary laboratories “Vet In Progress Plus” in Ioannina city where I was dealing daily with the diagnosis of viral diseases by the method of real-time PCR as well as the diagnosis of parasitological and microbiological factors with classical techniques. During that time I was the director of the branch in Ioannina and also served as substitute director of the head laboratories in Athens. The laboratory works with all animal species.
- May 2014 – Oct. 2016 I worked as a freelancer with the responsibility of diagnosis of fish diseases and consulting of aquaculture farms in the Western Greece, in Thesprotia area, with cage cultured marine fish species.
- Oct. 2016 – today I work as a researcher, in the Laboratory of Fish, Shellfish and Crustacean Diseases in the Veterinary Research Institute of the Hellenic Agricultural Organisation DEMETER. The Veterinary Research Institute is of national range.

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Bank for Pathogenic Microbes from Greek Aquaculture. Program 4.6 «Pioneering programs». Ministry of agricultural development and food.
- Study of residues in euryhaline fish.
- Thalís entitled: Analysis of mechanisms of immunopathology in natural and experimental infections of fish with Noda virus: importance of the infection for public health.
- ANASA: Definition and identification of pioneering products PDO or PGI of Amvrakikos Gulf, as part of the evaluation and sustainable management of fish stock of the gulf.
- 2017, Surveillance and protection of the health of trout farming. ELGO-DEMETER

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SCHOLASHIPS/ AWARDS

- 2002, second place award in the annual competition of “WALTHAM” for graduate students of Veterinary Schools in Greece.

- 2005-2009 Post Graduate Studies Scholarship from The State Scholarship Foundation of Greece (IKY) in the sector of Ichthyopathology after the successful participation in examination held by the foundation.

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#### POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

- Certificate of training and intensive attendance of seminar entitled “Designing, introduction and analysis of HACCP systems”, duration 33 hours organized by E.U.C.A.T. Athens. June 17-19, 2006
- Intensive training in virological diagnostic methods in the Italian reference laboratory for Nodavirus in Europe (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie) under the supervision of dr. G. Bovo. Oct. 1-26, 2007
- Open water diver certificate (PADI)

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#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

##### **In Graduate Studies**, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece

- Sept. 2007 - Febr. 2008 Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology-Laboratory support”
- Mar. 2008 – Aug. 2008 Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology”
- Sep. 2008 – Feb. 2009 Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology-Laboratory support”
- Mar. 2009 – Aug. 2009 Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyology-Aquaculture-Laboratory support”
- Sep. 2009 – Feb. 2010 Full time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology-Laboratory support”
- Mar. 2010 – Aug. 2010 Full time Lecturer in “Ichthyology-Aquaculture-Pathology of farm animals”
- Sep. 2010 – Feb. 2011 Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology and Health Management of Aquatic Organisms”
- Nov. 2013-Feb. 2014 University scholarship in teaching and laboratory training of graduate student in “Fish Pathology”
- Nov 2013 – Sep. 2014 Teaching Assistant in “Ichthyopathology and Ichthyology”

##### **In Graduate Studies**, School of Veterinary Medicine of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

- May 2017 Assistant in the laboratory practice of students in “Pathology of Cultured Aquatic Organisms”
- Dec 2017 - Jan. 2018 Assistant in the laboratory practice of students in “Aquaculture and Pathology of Aquatic Organisms”

##### **In Post Graduate Studies**, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece, Post-Graduate program entitled: Aquaculture - Aquatic Animal Health

- Apr.-May 2010 Lecturer in “Basic disciplines of Ichthyopathology and Diagnostics”
- Oct.-Dec 2010 Lecturer in “Infectious Diseases III”

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#### PUBLICATIONS

- Bitchava K., F. Athanassopoulou, E. Xylouri – Fragkiadaki, M. Papanastasopoulou, O. Sabatakou (2007) Case report: First incidence of Noda virus infection in sea bream (*Sparus auratus* L.), showing nervous clinical signs. *International Journal of Aquaculture-Bamigbeb*, 59(1), 36-41.
- Athanassopoulou F., Pappas I., Bitchava K. (2009) An overview of the treatments for parasitic disease in Mediterranean aquaculture. *CIHEAM Journal Options Méditerranéennes*, 2009: 65-83.
- Kosti E., Perdikaris C., Athanassopoulou F., Chantzaropoulos A., Vavatsikos M., Ergolavou A., Bithava C., Paschos I. (2008) Use of prussian carp, *Carassius gibelio*, pituitaries in the artificial propagation of female common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 38(2), 121-125
- G. Rigos, K. Bitchava and I. Negas (2010) Antibacterial drugs in products originating from aquaculture: assessing the risks to public welfare. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 2010: 149-201.
- C. Perdikaris, C. Nathanailides, E. Gouva, U.U. Gabriel, K. Bitchava, F. Athanasopoulou, A. Paschou, I. Paschos (2009) Size-related effectiveness of Clove oil as anaesthetic for rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* Walbaum, 1792) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus* Linnaeus, 1758). Revision 1. *Acta Vet Brno*: 2009 077-441-1RV.
- Lenas, D., Papadimitriou, E., Bitchava, C. and Nathanailides, C. (2011) Fatty acid’s content and potential health benefits of consuming gilthead sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) and sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*). *Acta Alimentaria*, 40(1): 45-51.
- Angelidis P., Yiagnisis M., Vatsos I., Bithava K., Teliousis K., Solomakos N., Athanassopoulou F. (2008) Aquaculture Bacterial Bank in Greece; Methodology and first results. *Scientific Annals of the Danube Delta Institute*, 4, 5-18.

- Vagianou St., Bitchava K., Athanasopoulou F. (2006) Sea lice (*Ceratomyxa oestroides*), (Risso, 1826), infestation in Mediterranean aquaculture: new information. *J Hellenic Vet Med Soc* 57(3): 223-230.
- Tsantilas H., Athanassopoulou F., Galatos A.D., Bitchava K. (2006) Welfare of fish. *J Hellenic Vet Med Soc* 57(2): 140-148.
- Papadopoulos P., Bitchava K., Tzironi E., Athanassopoulou F. (2008) Fish vaccination. *J Hellenic Vet Med Soc* 59(4): 308-319.
- Vagianou St., Bitchava K., Athanasopoulou F. (2009) Estimation of seasonality and prevalence of the isopod parasite *Ceratomyxa oestroides*, Risso, 1836, in Greece. *J Hellenic Vet Med Soc* 60(1): 545.
- Vagianou St., Bitchava K., Athanasopoulou F. (2009) Study of the biological cycle of the isopod *Ceratomyxa oestroides*, Risso, 1836 in sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) and sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) *J Hellenic Vet Med Soc* 60(1): 614.
- Gatzia K., Tzironi E., Bitchava K., Athanassopoulou F. (2009) Location and morphological identification of Myxosporida and evaluation of the effect of freezing and Giemsa staining on the spore length *J Hellenic Vet Med Soc* 60(1): 562.
- Papadopoulos Th., Abraham A, Sergelidis D., Kirkoudis I., Bitchava. (2010) Prevalence of *Listeria* spp. in freshwater fish (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* and *Carassius gibelio*) and the environment of fish markets in Northern Greece. *J Hellenic Vet Med Soc* 61(1): 15-22.

#### CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

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- “Main pathological conditions in Mediterranean cultured fish” (F. Athanassopoulou, K. Bitchava, P. Koumoundouros) *Recent Advances in Aquaculture Research*, 2010: 149-201.
- “Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER)” (K. Bitchava) *Aspects of Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture*, 2013: 461-474.
- “Lymphocystis” (K. Bitchava) *Aspects of Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture*, 2013: 461-474.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 10<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Veterinary Congress, Athens, Greece, 2006
- Aquaculture Europe 2007, Competing Claims, Istanbul, Turkey, 2007.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Panhellenic Congress of Farm Animals, Hygiene and Protection of Food, Athens, Greece, 2008
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium in Hydrobiology and Fishery, Arta, Greece, 2008.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Veterinary Congress, Athens, Greece, 2009
- 14<sup>th</sup> EAFP International Conference, Prague, 2009
- World Aquaculture Society, Veracruz, Mexico, 2009
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Panhellenic Congress of Farm Animals & Food Hygiene, Ioannina, Greece, 2014
- 13<sup>o</sup> Panhellenic Veterinary Congress, Athens, Greece, 2015
- 37<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the Greek Society of Biological Sciences, Volos, Greece, 2015
- Aquaculture Europe 2016, Food for thought, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2016
- 41<sup>st</sup> World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress, Cartagena Colombia, 2016
- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Applied Ichthyology and Aquatic Environment, Messolonghi, Greece, 2016.
- Aquaculture Europe 2017 - Cooperation for Growth. Dubrovnik, Croatia, 2017
- FISH 2018. Fish processing and aquaculture technologies. Moscow, Russia, 2018

#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Viral identification
- Epidemiology of *Vibrio* species in the aquaculture sector
- Vaccine development for bacterial diseases
- Fish Immunology