

CURRICULUM VITAE 2023

Gerry Rassias

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022- present: Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Patras, Greece.
- 2012- 2022: Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Patras, Greece.
- 2003-2012: Investigator/Lead Chemist, Synthetic Chemistry, GlaxoSmithKline R&D, Stevenage, UK.

EDUCATION and TRAINING

- 2002-2003: Post-doctoral fellow at The Scripps Research Institute, San Diego, USA with a fellowship from the Skaggs Foundation under the guidance of Prof. K.C. Nicolaou. Worked on the total synthesis of the complex natural products Diazonamide A and Epothilone B.
- 2000-2002: Military service in the Hellenic Army. Platoon commander and instructor in anti-tank warfare; honorably discharged with the rank of lieutenant.
- 1999-2000: Post-doctoral fellow at Loughborough University with a fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust under the supervision of Prof. P.C.B. Page. Worked on the total synthesis of Lactacystin and palladium catalysed asymmetric transformations. This work was structured and assessed by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and led to the title of Chartered Chemist and that of a Member of the RSC.
- 1995-1999: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) awarded by Loughborough University. The research project was a CASE scholarship from Glaxo-Wellcome on New Systems for Catalytic Asymmetric Epoxidation. Started at the University of Liverpool and completed at Loughborough University following the appointment of my supervisor, Prof. P.C.B. Page, as Head of Organic Chemistry at the latter institute.
- 1992-1995: BSc(Hons) *First Class* in Chemistry (8.64/10) from The University of Liverpool, UK. Awarded the Ellard-Woolcotte prize for distinguished academic performance (ranked 2nd in 86 graduates).

ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS, POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND RECOGNITION THEREOF

- At GlaxoSmithKline I was the lead chemist in the trametinib project, the first in class MEK inhibitor approved by the FDA for the treatment for metastatic melanoma (now asset of Novartis). I was also among the authors of the trametinib file submitted to the FDA for the approval of the drug.
- During my 10 year-career at GlaxoSmithKline I had the opportunity to contribute directly and indirectly in more than 120 projects spanning all phases of development (early/late phase and marketed products).
- At GlaxoSmithKline I worked on the development of several complex molecules for diverse therapeutic areas such as gastrointestinal, neurology, psychiatry and oncology. I was involved in the design and execution of syntheses in reactors up to 6,000 litres, delivering the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) at the appropriate specifications. I have also been responsible for the knowledge and technology transfer of these processes to production sites in the USA, Japan, UK, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, Spain and Singapore. For obvious reasons the overwhelming majority of this chemistry remains unpublished.

- GlaxoSmithKline has recognized the quality and importance of my contributions with two Bronze, six Silver and two Gold Reward & Recognition awards and three Exceptional Science Awards. In one occasion the chemical synthesis my team developed for a drug candidate was awarded the 2nd Prize for Green and Sustainable Process by the CEO of GlaxoSmithKline. In addition, I was promoted to Investigator within 6 years. I have also held positions in the Catalysis Team (founding member), the recruitment team and the review panel for academic proposals and collaborations.
- I have been the lead chemist in four projects encompassing multicultural teams of chemists, analysts and engineers of PhD/post-doctoral level. I have gained significant experience in coaching people, cost-of-goods issues, safety, environmental impact and manufacturability of chemical processes as well as in issues related to intellectual property, regulatory affairs, managing resources and more importantly the interaction of all of the above in decision making.
- I have supervised 90 students in 82 research projects spanning all levels; 7×PhD, 40×Master, 43×Undergraduate. My research team is currently the largest in Organic Chemistry (second largest overall in the Department), comprising of 5 PhD, 6 MSc and 6 undergraduate students.
- I am among the translators and chief editors in two Chemistry textbooks for undergraduate and postgraduate level that were recently translated in the Greek language: a) Organic Chemistry, 11th edition, by Carey F. A., Giuliano R. M., Allison N. T. και Bane S. L. and b) An Introduction to Medicinal Chemistry, 6th edition, by Graham Patrick.
- I teach Asymmetric Synthesis, Green Chemistry and Catalysis, Drug Discovery and Development - Industrial Drug Synthesis, Structure and Reactivity in Organic Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Chemistry of Heterocycles and Biomolecules in our under/postgraduate Programs. My teaching performance, as assessed by undergraduate and MSc students, has been consistently well above the Department's average.
- My research interests span diverse areas of contemporary organic chemistry such as Organic Synthesis, Developing New Reactions, Medicinal Chemistry although most of my work relates to drug development for cancer, infectious diseases (antivirals) and CNS disorders. In this context I collaborate extensively with Life Sciences groups in Greece and abroad.
- Since 2018 I am the elected President of the Drugs and Cosmetics Division of the Union of Hellenic Chemists (the professional body of Chemists in Greece) and recently re-elected Member of the National Assembly of Representatives.