

## Dragana Nikitovic PhD



**Present address:** Laboratories of Anatomy-Histology-Embryology, Medical School, University of Crete, Voutes PC 71003, Heraklion, Greece  
Telephone: Office: 2810-394557  
(e-mail): nikitovic@uoc.gr

### Education and professional employment

- 12/1992: BSc in Biochemistry, Group of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemistry-Biochemistry, University of Belgrade
- 02/93-08/93: Post graduate student fellowship, Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme: Result of 1993 competition, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London Title “Long-term regulation of pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase in culture of rat cardiac myocytes
- 08/1998: Half-Time PhD diploma, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Karolinska Institute, Sweden
- 11/99-03/00: Research associate sponsored by the scientific programme with title «ΕΠΕΑΕΚ-Programs “PROMITHEAS” which was funded by ΥΠ.Ε.Π.Θ., at the laboratory of Histology, Division of Morphology, School of Medicine, University of Crete
- 12/99-11/04: Research associate sponsored by the scientific programme with title «Study of the autonomic nerve system and sudden death on patients with cardiac insufficiency, Department of Cardiology, School of Medicine, University of Crete
- 06/2008: PhD diploma, Division of Morphology, School of Medicine, University of Crete
- 11/04-6/11: Instructor (ΕΙΔΙΩΤΗΣ II) at the laboratory of Anatomy-Histology-Embryology, Division of Morphology, School of Medicine, University of Crete
- 6/11-6/15: Lecturer at the laboratory of Anatomy-Histology-Embryology, Division of Morphology, School of Medicine, University of Crete.
- 06/15-01/2020: Assistant professor at the laboratory of Anatomy-Histology-Embryology, Department of Morphology, School of Medicine, University of Crete.
- 01/2020-present Associate professor at the Laboratories of Anatomy-Histology-Embryology, Department of Morphology, School of Medicine, University of Crete.

### Diplomas & Degrees:

- 12/1992: B.Sc in Biochemistry, Group of Biochemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Belgrade.
- 08/1998: Half-Time PhD diploma, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Karolinska Institute, Sweden.
- 06/1998: Recognition of the B.Sc in Biochemistry by ΔΙ.Κ.Α.Τ.Σ.Α
- 06/2008: Ph.D diploma, Department of Morphology, School of Medicine, University of Crete.
- 01/2018: Diploma of European recognized toxicologist (ERT)

### Editorial Scientific Boards/Reviewer & Awards

- Dragana Nikitovic is an Editorial Board member for PLoS ONE and was Guest editor for special issue “Proteoglycans / Glycosaminoglycans: From Basic Research to Clinical Practice” for BioMed Research (2014).
- Upon invitation she has acted as a Reviewer for more than 40 international journals including: Journal of Biological Chemistry, Life Sciences, International Journal of Cancer, PloS ONE, Toxicology, Cell Proliferation, Food and Chemical Toxicology, British Journal of Nutrition, Clinical and Experimental Metastasis, Tox Letters,

- International Journal of Biochemistry and Biology, Environmental Research etc.
- Upon invitation she has acted as a reviewer for: a) “Communication between tumor cells and their microenvironment. Role of fibroblast activation in tumor growth and invasion” with proposal identifier K-119283 submitted to National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) Hungary, 2016; b) for proposal number 2014/12/DST4/02845 submitted to National Science Center, Krakow, Poland, 2014.
  - She has received a number of personal and group rewards by various Scientific Societies, among them the Hellenic Society of Biochemical & Molecular Biology Society and the Hellenic Connective Tissue Society, Federation of European Biochemical Societies.

### **Organization of meetings/symposia**

- She was a member of the organizing committee 2006 meeting of the Hellenic Connective tissue and Extracellular Matrix section, and of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Matrix Biology Europe (MBE) Conference Athens, 2016.

### **Publications/books/lectures**

- Dr. Nikitovic has 91 (Scopus) or 121 (Google Scholar) publications (Research and Reviews) in international peer reviewed journals; which have been cited 2701 (Scopus) or 3726 (Google Scholar) with an h-index 29 (Scopus) or 35 (Google Scholar). She has contributed chapters to 8 book series and full proceedings. She has more than 100 abstracts in proceedings of International and National scientific conferences. Dragana Nikitovic has a number of key lectures/invited lectures/oral presentations in International meetings/conferences including Eurotox 2014, 2016, 2019; FEBS-MPT 2009, 2011, 2013; Bionanotox 2012, 2013, 2018, MBE 2016, CEM, 2018, WCA 2018, Iasi 2019, COST 2019.

### **Monographs**

- Dragana Nikitovic has contributed to 5 international book chapters and participated in the preparation of notes for the Histology Course. She has edited the Greek edition of medical books: 1. Histology Barry S Mitchell, Sandra Peel. (Editors-in-Chief of the book Tzanakakis G. / Nikitovic-Tzanakaki D; 2. Human Embryology-From Conception to Birth-Moore Keith's Clinical Approach. (Partial editing of the book)

### **Grants**

- She is / was a participant in 11 Greek and International grants and is / was the principal investigator of 7 grants including those financed by the Ministry of Education, Lifelong learning and Religion, Greece, Program “Lifelong training, updating knowledge for university graduates”; Instituto di Rischerece Milano, Italy, Special Research Account of UOC, Heraklion, Greece and ERANET, EU, 2015.

### **Teaching experience (11/04-Present)**

- **Undergraduate teaching:** Lectures in Histology and Embryology to medical students (School of Medicine, University of Crete). Supervisor of 7 undergraduate biology students (Department of Biology, University of Crete) when performing diploma thesis in area of Matrix biology. Supervisor of 5 Helmsic (Italy, Spain, Slovenia and Russia) and 4 Erasmus exchange students (trainees), School of Pharmacy, University of d'Auvergne, France.
- **Graduate teaching:** Courses Masters& PhD: Lectures on Extracellular matrix biology. Trainees: Supervisor of one finished and for 2 PhD studies under progress. Member of three member PhD committees for 2 ongoing PhD theses. Member of seven member committee for finished PhD thesis and one finished master thesis.

### Organizing experience:

- 15-16/04/06: Member of Local Organizing Committee "8th Annual Meeting of the Hellenic Research Club for Connective Tissue & Matrix Biology," Heraklion 14-15 April 2006
- 11/04- Present: Participation in the organization and operation of the Laboratory of Anatomy-Histology-Embryology, School of Medicine, University of Crete on new methods of investigation concerning the effects of glycosaminoglycans/proteoglycans on cancer cell functions.
- 09/14 -07/2015: Member of the International Relations Committee of School of Medicine, University of Crete
- 09/14 -07/2016: Member of the Economical Committee of School of Medicine, University of Crete 09/15-08/2017: Member of the Pregraduate Committee of School of Medicine, University of Crete
- 09/14 present: Member of the Exchange Student committee of School of Medicine, University of Crete
- 04/19 Member of the Science Communication Team, Innogly Cost Action (CA18103)

### Collaborations

- Dragana Nikitovic has collaborated at International level with: Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany; "Victor Babes" National Institute of Pathology, Bucharest, Romania; DiSFEB, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy; Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia, Moscow, Russia; University of Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, CERMAV, Grenoble, France.

### Research Interests

Her research interests are focused on matrix pathobiology, studying the implication of matrix molecules in disease, including the propagation and progression of cancer and inflammation. Aspects of oxidative stress and cytotoxicity in matrix pathobiology are also fields of Dr Nikitovic research activity.

Useful links:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=1nsd9y8AAAAJ&hl=en>

### Publications

1. **Nikitovic D.** and Holmgren A. S-Nitrosoglutathione is cleaved by the thioredoxin system with liberation of glutathione and redox regulating nitric oxide. *J Biol Chem* 271:19180-19185, 1996.
2. **Nikitovic D,** Holmgren A, Spyrou G. Inhibition of AP-1 DNA binding by nitric oxide involving conserved cysteine residues in jun and fos. *Biochem and Biophys Res Commun* 242:109-112, 1998.
3. Tsatsakis AM, Tsakiris IN, Maxaira K, Christakis-Hampsas M, **Tzanakakis-Nikitovic D,** Niklis N: Assesment of safe harvesting after methyl parathion application in peaches. *Bull Environ Contam Toxic* 68:824-830, 2002.
4. **Nikitovic D,** Zacharis EA, Manios EG, Malliaraki NE, Kanoupakis EM, Sfridaki KI, Skalidis EI, Margioris AN, Vardas PE. Plasma levels of Nitrites/ Nitrates in patients with chronic atrial fibrillation are increased after electrical restoration of sinus rhythm. *J Interv Card Electrophysiol.* 7:171-6, 2002.

5. Tsakiris IN, Toutoudaki M, **Nikitovic DP**, Danis TG, Stratis IA, Tsatsakis AM. Field study for degradation in apples cultivated with integrated crop management system. *Bull Environ Contam Toxicol* 69:771-8, 2002.
6. Mitropoulou TN, Tzanakakis GN, **Nikitovic D**, Tsatsakis A, Karamanos NK. In vitro effects of genistein on synthesis and distribution of glycosaminoglycans/proteoglycans by estrogen receptor-positive and negative human breast cancer epithelial cells. *Anticancer Res*. 22:2841-6, 2002.
7. **Nikitovic D**, Tsatsakis AM, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. The effects of genistein on synthesis and distribution of glycosaminoglycans/proteoglycans by the two osteosarcoma cell lines depends on the tyrosine kinase and the estrogen receptor density. *Anticancer Res*. 23:459-64, 2003.
8. Parthenakis FI, Patrianakos A, Prassopoulos V, Papadimitriou E, **Nikitovic D**, Karkavitsas NS, Vardas PE. Relation of cardiac sympathetic innervation to proinflammatory cytokine levels in patients with heart failure secondary to idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy. *Am J Cardio* 91:1190-4, 2003.
9. Mitropoulou T., **Nikitovic D.**, Theocharis AD., Karamanos N., Tzanakakis GN. IGF-I affects synthesis of GAGs/PGs by epithelial breast cancer cells through a tyrosine kinase pathway. *Biochemie* 86:251-9, 2003.
10. Tsakiris IN, Danis TG, Stratis IA, **Nikitovic D**, Alegakis AK, Tsatsakis AM. Monitoring of pesticide residues in fresh peaches produced under conventional and integrated crop management. *Food Additives & Contaminants* 21: 670-677, 2004.
11. Patrianakos AN, Parthenakis FI, Diakakis GF, Mavrakis HE, Tzerakis PG, **Nikitovic D**, Vardas PE. Restrictive filling pattern is associated with increased humoral activation and impaired exercise in dilated cardiopathy. *Eur J Heart Fail* 6:735-43, 2004.
12. Marketou M, Simantirakis EN, **Nikitovic D**, Chrysostomakis SI, Zacharis EA, Vardas PE. Impact of asynchronous ventricular activation on pro-inflammatory cytokines and oxidative stress in paced patients. *Heart* 9:8170-818, 2005.
13. **Nikitovic D**, Zafiropoulos A, Tzanakakis GN, Karamanos NK and Tsatsakis AM. Effects of glycosaminoglycans on cell proliferation of normal osteoblasts and human osteosarcoma cells depend on their type and fine chemical compositions. *Anticancer Res* 25:2851-2856, 2005.
14. Germanakis I, Kalmanti M, Parthenakis F, **Nikitovic D**, Stiakaki E, Patrianakos A, and Vardas PE. Correlation of plasma N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide levels with left ventricle mass in children treated with anthracyclines. *Int J Cardiol* 108:212-5, 2006.
15. Marketou ME, Zacharis EA, **Nikitovic D**, Ganotakis ES, Parthenakis FI, Maliaraki N, and Vardas PE. Early effects of simvastatin versus atorvastatin on oxidative stress and proinflammatory cytokines in hyperlipidemic subjects. *Angiology* 57:211-8, 2006.
16. **Nikitovic D**, Zafiropoulos A, Katonis P, Tsatsakis A, Theocharis AD, Karamanos NK and Tzanakakis GN. (2006) Transforming growth factor-beta as a key molecule triggering the expression of versican isoforms v0 and v1, hyaluronan synthase-2 and synthesis of hyaluronan in malignant osteosarcoma cells. *IUBMB Life* 58:47-53, 2006.
17. Sifaki M, Assouti M, **Nikitovic D**, Krasagakis K, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Lumican, a small leucine-rich proteoglycan substituted with keratin sulphate chains is expressed and secreted by human melanoma cells and not normal melanocytes. *IUBMB-Life* 58:606-610, 2006.

18. Tzanakakis GN, **Nikitovic D**, Katonis P, Kanakis I and Karamanos NK. Expression and distribution of N-acetyl and N-glycolylneuraminic acids in secreted and cell-associated glycoconjugates by two human osteosarcoma cell lines. *Biomed Chromatogr* 21:406-409, 2006.
19. Chatzinikolaou G, **Nikitovic D**, Stathopoulos EN, Velegarakis GA, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Protein tyrosine kinase and estrogen receptor-dependent pathways regulate the synthesis and distribution of glycosaminoglycans / proteoglycans produced by two human colon cancer cell lines. *Anticancer Res* 27:4101-6, 2007.
20. Karakitsos D, Patrianakos AP, Parthenakis FI, Mallaiaraki N, **Nikitovic D**, Kyriazis J, Karabinis A, Groothoff JW, de Groot E, Fourtounas C, Daphnis E, Vardas PE. Altered proximal aortic stiffness and endothelin plasma levels in diabetic patients with end-stage renal disease *ASAIO J* 53:343-350, 2007.
21. **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki A, Zafiropoulos A, Katonis P, Tsatsakis A, Karamanos N.K and Tzanakakis GN. Lumican expression is positively correlated with human osteosarcoma cell differentiation and negatively with their growth. *FEBS J* 275: 350-361, 2008.
22. **Nikitovic D**, Assouti M, Sifaki M, Katonis P, Krasagakis K, Karamanos NK and Tzanakakis GN. Chondroitin sulfate and heparan sulfate-containing proteoglycans are both partners and targets of basic fibroblast growth factor-mediated proliferation in human metastatic melanoma cell lines. *Int J Biochem Cell Biol* 40:72-83, 2008.
23. Chatzinikolaou G, **Nikitovic D**, Asimakopoulou A, Tsatsakis A, Karamanos N.K. and Tzanakakis G.N. Heparin is a unique stimulator of human colon cancer cells' growth. *IUBMB Life* 60:333-40, 2008.
24. Zafiropoulos A, **Nikitovic D**, Katonis P, Tsatsakis A, Karamanos NK and Tzanakakis GN. MG63 osteosarcoma cells evade the decorin-induced growth arrest by the protracted expression and activation of EGFR. *Mol Cancer Res* 6:785-94, 2008.
25. **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki K, Chalkiadaki G, Karamanos K and Tzanakakis G (2008) The role of SLRP-proteoglycans in osteosarcoma pathogenesis: *Connect Tissue Res* 49:235-38, 2008.
26. **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki A, Tsatsakis A, Katonis P, Karamanos N.K, Tzanakakis G. Lumican, a small leucine rich proteoglycan. *IUBMB-Life* 60: 818-823, 2008.
27. Chalkiadaki G, **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki Ai, Sifaki M, Krasagakis K, Katonis K, Karamanos NK, and Tzanakakis GN. Fibroblast growth factor-2 through a syndecan-4-dependent mechanism modulates melanoma adhesion and migration. *Int J Biochem Cell Biol* 41: 1323-1331, 2009.
28. Berdiaki A, **Nikitovic D**, Tsatsakis A, Katonis P, Karamanos NK, **Tzanakakis GN**. bFGF induces changes in hyaluronan synthase and hyaluronidase isoform expression and modulates the migration capacity of fibrosarcoma cells. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1790:1258-65, 2009.
29. Kochiadakis GE, Arfanakis DA, Marketou ME, Skalidis EI, Igoumenidis NE, **Nikitovic D**, Giaouzaki A, Chlouverakis G, Vardas PE. Oxidative stress changes after stent implantation: A randomized comparative study of sirolimus-eluting and bare metal stents. *Int J Cardiol* 142:33-7, 2010.
30. Chatzinikolaou G, **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki A, Zafiropoulos A, Katonis P, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Heparin regulates colon cancer cell growth through p38 mitogen activated protein kinase signaling. *Cell Proliferation* 43:9-18, 2009.
31. Berdiaki A, Datsis GA, **Nikitovic D**, Tsatsakis A, Katonis P, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis

GN. Parathyroid hormone (PTH) peptides through the regulation of hyaluronan metabolism affect osteosarcoma cell migration. *IUBMB Life* 62:377-86, 2010.

32. Chalkiadaki G, **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki A, Katonis P, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Heparin plays a key regulatory role via a p53/FAK-dependent signaling in melanoma cell adhesion and migration. *IUBMB Life* 63:109-19, 2011.

33. **Nikitovic D**, Chalkiadaki G, Berdiaki A, Aggelidakis J, Katonis P, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Lumican regulates osteosarcoma cell adhesion by modulating TGF $\beta$ 2 activity. *Int J Biochem Cell Biol* 43:928-3, 2011.

34. Datsis GA, Berdiaki A, **Nikitovic D**, Mytilineou M, Katonis P, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Parathyroid hormone affects the fibroblast growth factor-proteoglycan signaling axis to regulate osteosarcoma cell migration. *FEBS J* 19:3782-92, 2011.

35. Chalkiadaki G, **Nikitovic D**, Katonis P, Berdiaki A, Tsatsakis A, Kotsikogianni I, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Low molecular weight heparin inhibits melanoma cell adhesion and migration through a PKCa/JNK signaling pathway inducing actin cytoskeleton changes. *Cancer Lett* 312:235-44, 2011.

36. Kouvidi K, Berdiaki A, **Nikitovic D**, Katonis P, Afratis N, Hascall VC, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Role of receptor for hyaluronic acid-mediated motility (RHAMM) in low molecular weight hyaluronan (LMWHA)-mediated fibrosarcoma cell adhesion. *J Biol Chem* 286:38509-20, 2011.

37. Afratis N, Gialeli C, **Nikitovic D**, Tsegenidis T, Karousou E, Theocharis AD, Pavão MS, Tzanakakis GN, Karamanos NK. Glycosaminoglycans: key players in cancer cell biology and treatment. *FEBS J* 279:1177-9, 2012.

38. **Nikitovic D**, Chatzinikolaou G, Tsiaoussis J, Tsatsakis A, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Insights into targeting colon cancer cell fate at the level of proteoglycans / glycosaminoglycans. *Curr Med Chem*. 19: 4247-58, 2012.

39. **Nikitovic D**, Aggelidakis J, Young MF, Iozzo RV, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. The biology of small leucine-rich proteoglycans in bone pathophysiology. *J Biol Chem*.287:33926-33, 2012.

40. Mytilinaiou M, Bano A, **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki A, Voudouri K, Kalogeraki A, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Syndecan-2 is a key regulator of transforming growth factor beta 2/Smad2-mediated adhesion in fibrosarcoma cells. *IUBMB Life*. 65:134-43, 2013.

41. Corsini E, Galbiati V, **Nikitovic D**, Tsatsakis AM. Role of oxidative stress in chemical allergens induced skin cells activation. *Food Chem Toxicol* 61:74-81, 2013.

42. **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki A, Banos A, Tsatsakis A, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Could growth factor-mediated extracellular matrix deposition and degradation offer the ground for directed pharmacological targeting in fibrosarcoma? *Curr Med Chem* 20:2868-80, 2013.

43. **Nikitovic D**, Corsini E, Kouretas D, Tsatsakis A, Tzanakakis G. ROS-major mediators of extracellular matrix remodeling during tumor progression. *Food Chem Toxicol* 61:178-86, 2013.

44. Gialeli C, **Nikitovic D**, Kletsas D, Theocharis AD, Tzanakakis GN, Karamanos NK. PDGF/PDGFR Signaling and Targeting in Cancer Growth and Progression: Focus on Tumor Microenvironment and Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts. *Curr Pharm Des* 20:2843-8, 2013.

45. **Nikitovic D**, Kouvidi K, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. The roles of hyaluronan/RHAMM/CD44 and their respective interactions along the insidious pathways of

fibrosarcoma progression. *BioMed Research International* 2013:929531, 2013.

46. Juranek I, **Nikitovic D**, Hayes AW, Kouretas D, Tsastakis AM. Biological paradoxes of reactive oxygen species in relation to difficulties of treating pathologies involving oxidative stress by exogenous antioxidants. *Food Chem Toxicol* 61:240-7, 201.

47. Skandalis S, Afratis N, Smirlaki G, **Nikitovic D**, Theocharis AD, Tzanakakis GN, Karamanos. Cross-talk between estradiol receptor and EGFR/IGF-IR signaling pathways in estrogen-responsive breast cancers: focus on the role and impact of Proteoglycans. *Matrix Biol* 35:182-93, 2014.

48. **Nikitovic D**, Papoutsidakis A, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Lumican affects tumor cell functions, tumor-ECM interactions, angiogenesis and inflammatory response. *Matrix Biol* 35:206-14, 2014.

49. **Nikitovic D**, Mytilinaiou M, Berdiaki A, Karamanos NK, Tzanakakis GN. Heparan sulfate proteoglycans and heparin regulate melanoma cell functions. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1840:2471-81, 2014.

50. Kouvidi K, **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki A, Tzanakakis GN. Hyaluronan/RHAMM interactions in mesenchymal tumor pathogenesis: role of growth factors. *Adv Cancer Res* 123:319-49, 2014.

51. Karousou E, D'Angelo ML, Kouvidi K, Vigetti D, Viola M, **Nikitovic D**, De Luca G, Passi A. Collagen VI and hyaluronan: the common role in breast cancer. *Biomed Res Int* 2014:606458, 2014.

52. **Nikitovic D**, Kouvidi K, Voudouri K, Berdiaki A, Karousou E, Passi A, Tzanakakis GN. The motile breast cancer phenotype roles of proteoglycans/glycosaminoglycans. *Biomed Res Int* 2014:124321, 2014.

53. **Nikitovic D**, Berdiaki A, Galbiati V, Kavasi RM, Papale A, Tsatsakis A, Tzanakakis GN, Corsini E. Hyaluronan regulates chemical allergen-induced IL-18 production in human keratinocytes. *Toxicol Lett* 232:89-97, 2014.

54. **Nikitovic D**, Juranek I, Wilks MF, Tzardi M, Tsatsakis A, Tzanakakis GN. Anthracycline-dependent cardiotoxicity and extracellular matrix remodeling. *Chest* 146:1123-30, 2014.

55. Tzanakakis G, Kovalszky I, Heldin P, **Nikitovic D**. Proteoglycans/glycosaminoglycans: from basic research to clinical practice. *Biomed Res Int* 2014:295254, 2014.

56. **Nikitovic D**, Tzardi M, Berdiaki A, Tsatsakis A, Tzanakakis GN. Cancer microenvironment and inflammation: role of hyaluronan. *Front Immunol* 14;6:169, 2015.

57. Voudouri K, Berdiaki A, Tzardi M, Tzanakakis GN, **Nikitovic D**. Insulin-like growth factor and epidermal growth factor signaling in breast cancer cell growth: focus on endocrine resistant disease. *Anal Cell Pathol (Amst)* 2015:975495, 2015.

58. **Nikitovic D**, Kouvidi K, Kavasi RM, Berdiaki A, Tzanakakis GN. Hyaluronan/Hyaladherins - a Promising Axis for Targeted Drug Delivery in Cancer. *Curr Drug Deliv* 13:500-11, 2016.

59. Kouvidi K, Berdiaki A, Tzardi M, Karousou E, Passi A, Nikitovic D, Tzanakakis GN. Receptor for hyaluronic acid- mediated motility (RHAMM) regulates HT1080 fibrosarcoma cell proliferation via a  $\beta$ -catenin/c-myc signaling axis. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 1860:814-24, 2016

60. Galateanu B, Hudita A, Negrei C, Ion RM, Costache M, Stan M, **Nikitovic D**, Hayes AW, Spandidos DA, Tsatsakis AM, Ginghina O. Impact of multicellular tumor spheroids as an in

vivo-like tumor model on anticancer drug response. *Int J Oncol* 48:2295-302, 2016.

61. Zurac S, Neagu M, Constantin C, Cioplea M, Nedelcu R, Bastian A, Popp C, Nichita L, Andrei R, Tebeica T, Tanase C, Chitu V, Caruntu C, Ghita M, Popescu C, Boda D, Mastalier B, Maru N, Daha C, Andreescu B, Marinescu I, Rebosapca A, Staniceanu F, Negroiu G, Ion DA, **Nikitovic D**, Tzanakakis GN, Spandidos DA, Tsatsakis AM. Variations in the expression of TIMP1, TIMP2 and TIMP3 in cutaneous melanoma with regression and their possible function as prognostic predictors. *Oncol Lett* 11:3354-3360, 2016.

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