

Vassiliki Fotaki, PhD

39/30, EH6 5FD, Edinburgh, UK
+44 750 2374 701; vasfotaki@gmail.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vasfotaki/>

Summary

- Accomplished Biomedical Scientist with 15+ of experience in the design, planning, and implementation of parallel-running, collaborative research projects and broad knowledge of multiple therapeutic areas, including Central Nervous System disorders, Ophthalmology and Haemato-Oncology
- Outstanding science and medical writing skills, resulting in 10+ successful funding applications, 20+ well-cited (900+) research publications and an impactful educational programme for healthcare professionals (HCPs)
- Versatile, flexible and meticulous communicator, experienced in delivering engaging oral and poster presentations, adapting style and content to meet key stakeholders' requirements, whether scientists, HCPs or the general public

Work Experience

Scientific and Medical Education Specialist

August 2017 – March 2018

Myeloma UK

- Lead effectively Myeloma Academy (MA), an educational programme for HCPs (nurses, General Practitioners [GPs], haematologists), creating innovative and strategic material
- Produce a concise educational module for GPs in collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)
- Review, edit and update HCPs guides and finder tools for drugs and clinical trials to reflect changes in NICE guidelines and drug approvals, as well as advances in treatments in the clinical trial environment
- Communicate successfully Myeloma UK's educational and patient information resources at pharma or academic conferences, receiving 93% positive feedback for oral presentation at the Janssen 5th Haematology Summit, London, February 2018
- Write SOPs, internal and external post-conference and other news reports according to Myeloma UK's style and branding
- Perform MA's landscape analysis, identifying competitors, strengths and weaknesses and areas for future improvement
- Identify HCPs' educational needs through questionnaire production and analysis
- Collaborate and liaise effectively with internal and external stakeholders for successful delivery of the MA programme

Principal Investigator

June 2012 – June 2017

University of Edinburgh, Centre for Integrative Physiology

- Led effectively a research programme and directed a diverse research team of three members of staff and six postgraduate students, achieving the projects' goals on time and within budget
- Authored six peer-reviewed articles, being responsible for their design and content
- Conceived and wrote three successful funding proposals
- Developed educational material and delivered engaging seminars, lectures and tutorials, which were given favourable feedback in students' questionnaires
- Communicated research results confidently in departmental, national and international meetings, achieving conference awards for best poster and oral presentations
- Provided expert scientific insight as examiner and adviser in PhD committee panels and peer-reviewed papers for Neuroscience journals, and grants for the GACR (Czech Science Foundation)

Biomedical Research Scientist

Nov 2002 – May 2012

University of Edinburgh, Centre for Integrative Physiology

- Planned, managed and drove parallel research projects resulting in 9 research publications
- Generated two successful grant applications of ~£1 million as principal investigator and co-investigator in research proposals
- Taught, advised and mentored two PhD students with their work and written dissertations
- Trained, supervised and provided report feedback to 9 undergraduate and 4 Masters students

Education

PhD in Biological Sciences (Molecular Biology, Genetics and Neuroscience) Oct 2002
University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

BSc (Hons) in Biology (Honours dissertation in Human Molecular Genetics) Nov 1995
University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Skills

Science Writing	Microsoft Office	Spanish	Project Management
Medical Writing	Citation Software	Greek	Stakeholder Management
Medical Education	Slide Decks	Catalan	Mentoring
Editing	Poster Presentations	French	Leadership
Proofreading			Strategy

Affiliations & Certifications

- Member of the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA)
- APM Project Fundamentals Qualification (PFQ); Association for Project Management, Feb 2018
- NRS Introduction to Good Clinical Practice; NHS Research Scotland, Nov 2017
- Clinical Trial Management Course; Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility, Dec 2017

- Smith R, Huang YT, Tian T, Vojtasova D, Mesalles-Naranjo O, Pratt T, Price D, **Fotaki V.***
The transcription factor Foxg1 promotes optic fissure closure in the mouse by suppressing Wnt8b in the nasal optic stalk. **J Neurosci.** 2017 Aug 16;37(33):7975-7993 (*corresponding author).
- Bulstrode H, Johnstone E, Marques MA, Ferguson K, Bressan R, Blin C, Grant V, Gogolok S, Gagrira S, Ender C, **Fotaki V**, Bertone P, Pollard SM.
Elevated FOXG1 in glioblastoma enforces neural stem cell identity through transcriptional control of cell cycle and epigenetic regulators. **Genes Dev.** 2017 Apr 15;31(8):757-773.
- Aduwum-Ofosu KK, Magnani D, Theil T, Price DJ, **Fotaki V.***
The molecular and cellular signatures of the mouse eminentia thalami support its role as a signalling centre in the developing forebrain. **Brain Struct Funct.** 2016 Sep;221(7):3709-27 (*corresponding author).
- Nowakowski TJ, Mysiak KS, O'Leary T, **Fotaki V**, Pratt T, Price DJ.
Loss of functional Dicer in mouse radial glia cell-autonomously prolongs cortical neurogenesis. **Dev Biol.** 2013 Oct 15;382(2):530-7.
- **Fotaki V***, Smith R, Pratt T, Price DJ.
Foxg1 is required to limit the formation of ciliary margin tissue and Wnt/ β -catenin signalling in the developing nasal retina of the mouse. **Dev Biol.** 2013 Aug 15;380(2):299-313 (*corresponding author).
- Nowakowski TJ, **Fotaki V**, Pollock A, Sun T, Pratt T, Price DJ.
MicroRNA-92b regulates the development of intermediate cortical progenitors in embryonic mouse brain. **Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.** 2013 Apr 23;110(17):7056-61.
- **Fotaki V***, Price DJ, Mason JO.
Wnt/ β -catenin signalling is disrupted in the *extra-toes* (*Gli3^{xt/xt}*) mutant from early stages of forebrain development, concomitant with anterior neural plate patterning defects. **J Comp Neurol.** 2011 Jun 15;519(9):1640-57 (*corresponding author).
- **Fotaki V[&]**, Larralde O[&], Zeng S[&], McLaughlin D, Nichols J, Price DJ, Theil T, Mason JO.
Loss of Wnt8b has no overt effect on hippocampus development but leads to altered Wnt gene expression levels in dorsomedial telencephalon. **Dev Dyn.** 2010 Jan;239(1):284-96 ([&]equal contribution).
- Yu T, **Fotaki V**, Mason JO, Price DJ.
Analysis of early ventral telencephalic defects in mice lacking functional Gli3 protein. **J Comp Neurol.** 2009 Feb 10;512(5):613-27.
- Laguna A, Aranda S, Barallobre MJ, Barhoum R, Fernández E, **Fotaki V**, Delabar JM, de la Luna S, de la Villa P, Arbonés ML. The protein kinase DYRK1A regulates caspase-9-mediated apoptosis during retina development. **Dev Cell.** 2008 Dec;15(6):841-53.
- **Fotaki V***, Price DJ, Mason JO.
Newly identified patterns of Pax2 expression in the developing mouse forebrain. **BMC Dev Biol.** 2008 Aug 13;8:79 (*corresponding author)
- Arqué G[&], **Fotaki V[&]**, Fernández D, Martínez de Lagrán M, Arbonés ML, Dierssen M.
Impaired spatial learning strategies and novel object recognition in mice haploinsufficient for the dual specificity tyrosine-regulated kinase-1A (Dyrk1A). **PLoS One.** 2008 Jul 2;3(7):e2575. ([&]equal contribution).
- Fenby BT, **Fotaki V**, Mason JO.
Pax3 regulates Wnt1 expression via a conserved binding site in the 5' proximal promoter. **Biochim Biophys Acta.** 2008 Feb;1779(2):115-21.
- **Fotaki V***, Yu T, Zaki PA, Mason JO, Price DJ.
Abnormal positioning of diencephalic cell types in neocortical tissue in the dorsal telencephalon of mice lacking functional Gli3. **J Neurosci.** 2006 Sep; 26(36):9282-92. (*corresponding author).
- Zaki PA, Martynoga B, Delafield-Butt JT, **Fotaki V**, Yu T, Price DJ.

Loss of Gli3 enhances the viability of embryonic telencephalic cells in vitro. **Eur J Neurosci.** 2005 Sep;22(6):1547-51.

- Benavides-Piccione R, Dierssen M, Ballesteros-Yanez I, Martinez de Lagrán M, Arbonés ML, **Fotaki V**, DeFelipe J, Elston GN.

Alterations in the phenotype of neocortical pyramidal cells in the *Dyrk1A*^{+/-} mouse. **Neurobiol Dis.** 2005 Oct;20(1):115-22.

- **Fotaki V**, Martínez de Lagrán M, Estivill X, Arbonés M, Dierssen M.

Haploinsufficiency of *Dyrk1A* in mice leads to specific alterations in the development and regulation of motor activity. **Behav Neurosci.** 2004 Aug;118(4):815-21.

- Martí E, Altafaj X, Dierssen M, de la Luna S, **Fotaki V**, Álvarez M, Pérez-Riba M, Ferrer I, Estivill X. *Dyrk1A* expression pattern supports specific roles of this kinase in the adult central nervous system. **Brain Res.** 2003 Feb 28;964(2):250-63.

- **Fotaki V**, Dierssen M, Alcántara S, Martínez S, Martí E, Casas C, Visa J, Soriano E, Estivill X, Arbonés M.

Dyrk1A haploinsufficiency affects viability and causes developmental delay and abnormal brain morphology in mice. **Mol Cell Biol.** 2002 Sep;22(18):6636-47.

- Dierssen M, **Fotaki V**, Martínez de Lagrán M, Gratacós M, Arbonés M, Fillat C, Estivill X.

Neurobehavioral development of two mouse lines commonly used in transgenic studies. **Pharmacol Biochem Behav.** 2002 Aug;73(1):19-25.

- Dierssen M, Martí E, Pucharcós C, **Fotaki V**, Altafaj X, Casas K, Solans A, Arbonés ML, Fillat C, Estivill X.

Functional genomics of Down syndrome: a multidisciplinary approach. **J Neural Transm Suppl.** 2001 (61):131-48, Review.