

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Dr. Styliani (Stella) Vlachou, PhD

Current Position (September 2011 – present): Assistant Professor in Biopsychology, School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Faculty of Science and Health, Dublin City University (DCU), Dublin, Ireland; Principal Investigator of the Behavioural Neuroscience Laboratory at DCU.

For CV information on previous positions and further details, please see also Biographical Details at:

<http://www.dcu.ie/snhs/people/stella-vlachou.shtml>

Research Gate: Styliani (Stella) Vlachou (RG score: 26.44; h-index, excluding self-citations: 13)

Professional Experience and Selected Training:

June 2003-December 2003: Pre-doctoral Marie Curie Fellow, (EC Contract No: HMPT-CT-2001-00234) Brighton (UK), University of Sussex, Dept. of Psychology. Supervisor: Prof. David N. Stephens

July 2005: British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) Series of Seminars (modules No 4, 5) towards the BAP Preclinical Certificate

March-October 2005: Research Assistant in the Research Project: Exploitation of novel cannabinoid analogs with possible analgesic, psychomotor and anti-abuse potential. Involved in the Work Package: Behavioral studies of the abuse and antibuse potential of selected cannabinoid ligands. Funded by GSRT-EU. Project Leader: Christina Spyraiki, Professor of Pharmacology

January 2007-September 2011: TRDRP Post-doctoral Fellow/Researcher, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA, USA

January-May 2015: Aurora Women Leadership in Higher Education Training Scheme (selected by the Dean of Faculty of Science and Health, DCU)

December 2017-January 2018: Role Model for Aurora Women Leadership in Higher Education

Undergraduate Teaching Experience (2011-2017): Module Co-Ordinator for: NS125 Biological Psychology 1; NS228 Biological Psychology 2; NS144 Philosophy of Psychology; NS337 Psychopharmacology; NS4539 Behavioural Neuroscience Methods (previously, Lab Practical); NS4531 Psychology Individual Research Project.

Postgraduate Teaching Experience (2009-present): Specialised seminars/lectures in neuropsychopharmacology and drug addiction (MSc in Neuroscience, Medical School of Heraklion, Crete, 2009; MSc in Neuroscience, Medical School of Athens, May 2018, through Erasmus)

Publications:

1. **Vlachou, S.**, Nomikos, G.G., and Panagis, G. (2003). WIN 55,212-2 decreases the reinforcing actions of cocaine through CB₁ cannabinoid receptor stimulation. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 2003; 141: 215-222.
2. **Vlachou, S.**, Nomikos, G.G., and Panagis, G. (2005). CB₁ cannabinoid receptor agonists increase intracranial self-stimulation thresholds in the rat. *Psychopharmacology*, 179(2): 498-508.
3. Antoniou, K., Galanopoulos, A., **Vlachou, S.**, Nahmias, V., Thermos, K., Panagis, G., Daifoti, Z., Marselos, M., Papahatjis, D., and Spyraiki, C. (2005). Behavioral pharmacological properties of a novel cannabinoid 1',1'-dithiolane Δ^8 -THC analogue, AMG-3. *Behavioural Pharmacology*, 16: 499-510.
4. **Vlachou, S.**, Nomikos, G.G., and Panagis, G. (2006). Effects of endocannabinoid neurotransmission enhancers on brain stimulation reward. *Psychopharmacology*, 188(3): 293-305.
5. **Vlachou, S.**, Nomikos, G.G., Stephens, D.N., and Panagis, G. (2007). Lack of evidence for appetitive effects of Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol in the intracranial self-stimulation and conditioned place preference procedures in rodents. *Behavioural Pharmacology*, 18: 311-319.
6. **Vlachou, S.**, Stamatopoulou F., Nomikos, G.G., and Panagis, G. (2008). Enhancement of endocannabinoid neurotransmission counteracts the reinforcing and hyperlocomotive effects of cocaine through CB₁ cannabinoid receptor stimulation. *The International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology*, 11: 905-923.
7. Panagis, G., **Vlachou, S.**, and Nomikos, G.G. (2008). Behavioral pharmacology of cannabinoids with a focus on preclinical models for studying reinforcing and dependence-inducing properties. *Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, 1: 350-374.

8. Paterson, N.E.*, **Vlachou, S.***, Guery, S., Kaupmann, K., Froestl, W., and Markou, A. (2008). Positive modulation of GABA_B receptors decreased nicotine self-administration and counteracted nicotine-induced facilitation of brain reward function in rats. *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, 326: 306-314. * The asterisks indicate that these two authors have equally contributed to this work. **[FEATURED AT FACULTY OF 1000 BIOLOGY]**.
9. **Vlachou, S.**, Guery, S., Froestl, W., Banerjee, D., Benedict, J., Finn, M.G., and Markou, A. (2011). Repeated administration of the GABA_B receptor positive modulator BHF177 decreased nicotine self-administration and acute administration decreased cue-induced reinstatement of nicotine seeking in rats, *Psychopharmacology*, 215: 117-128.
10. **Vlachou, S.**, Paterson, N.E., Guery, S., Kaupmann, K., Froestl, W., Banerjee, D., Finn, M.G., and Markou, A. (2011). Both GABA_B receptor activation and blockade exacerbated anhedonic aspects of nicotine withdrawal in rats, *European Journal of Pharmacology*, 655: 52-58.
11. **Vlachou, S.**, and Panagis, G. (2014). Regulation of brain reward by the endocannabinoid system: A critical review of behavioral studies in animals. *Current Pharmacological Design*, 20: 2072-2088.
12. Panagis, G., Mackey, B., and **Vlachou, S.** (2014). Cannabinoid regulation of brain reward processing with an emphasis on the role of CB₁ receptors: a step back into the future. *Frontiers in Psychiatry/Neuropharmacology*, Vol. 5, Article 92: 1-20.
13. O'Connor, R.M., Moloney, R.D., **Vlachou, S.**, and Cryan J.F. (2015). Glutamatergic transmission during adolescence is critical for the behavioural effects of cocaine: effects of early life stress. *Neuropharmacology*, 99: 168-176.
14. (Commentary) Ehlers, C.L., Pergadia, M.L., Stoker, A.K., and **Vlachou, S.** (2017). Contribution to Mentorship and Promoting Women in Science, *Biological Psychiatry, in press* (Special Issue: Animal Models in Drug Discovery: Honoring the Legacy of Athina Markou; Eds: Drs. Mark Geyer, David Goldman, and Murray Stein)
15. Jacobson, L.H., **Vlachou, S.**, Slattery, D.A., Li, X., and Cryan, J.F. (2017). The GABA_B Receptor in Depression and Reward, *Biological Psychiatry, under review* (Special Issue: Animal Models in Drug Discovery: Honoring the Legacy of Athina Markou; Eds: Drs. Mark Geyer, David Goldman, and Murray Stein)

Book chapters:

1. **Vlachou, S.**, and Markou A. (2010). GABA_B receptors in reward mechanisms. *Advances in Pharmacology*, 58: 315-371.
2. **Vlachou, S.**, and Markou A. (2011). The use of the intracranial self-stimulation in drug abuse research. In: Olmstead MC, ed. Animal models of drug addiction. *Neuromethods*, vol. 53, pp 3-56. New York: Humana Press and Springer science.
3. **Βλάχου, Σ.** (2017). Νικοτίνη: νευροβιολογία, φαρμακολογία, δράσεις και θεραπευτικές προσεγγίσεις. Σε: Παπαρρηγόπουλος, Θ., και Δάλλα, Χ. (Επιμ.). Ουσιοεξαρτήσεις: Βιολογική, Ψυχολογική, Κοινωνική Προσέγγιση, Πανεπιστημιακές Εκδόσεις Κρήτης, υπό δημοσίευση (Book chapter in Greek for 2nd and 3rd-year medical students)

Overall citations from the above publications (Peer-reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters): 561

PhD Students: 2 (Behavioural Neuroscience Laboratory, DCU)

PhD Thesis External Examiner: 1 [Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, University College Cork (UCC)]

MSc Thesis External Examiner: 2 (Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, UCC; Department of Psychology, Maynooth University)

MSc Student: 1 (co-supervision; University of Porto, Portugal)

MSc Student Research Project Panel Member: 1

BSc in Psychology Final Year Research Projects: 22

Supervision- Student Training: Numerous students at BSc, MSc and PhD level in laboratory skills and behavioural procedures in neuroscience.

University Committee Membership: Ethics Advisory Committee, Research Committee, Co-ordinator of the Undergraduate Student Summer Internship Scheme, School of Nursing and Human Sciences, DCU.

Journal Reviewer for: Neuropsychopharmacology; Neuropharmacology; Psychopharmacology; Behavioral Neuroscience; Life Sciences; Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews; Molecular Neurobiology; Drug and Alcohol Dependence; Neuroscience Letters; British Journal of Pharmacology; Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, Frontiers in Psychiatry/Neuropharmacology, Frontiers in Neuroscience; Frontiers in Pharmacology; European Neuropsychopharmacology; Progress in Neuro-psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry.

Journal Guest Editor: Frontiers in Psychiatry/Neuropharmacology, Special Issue Research Topic: Neuropharmacology of drug reward: Implications for drug addiction; Editors: Prof. George Panagis and Dr. Styliani Vlachou

Journal Editorial Board: Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience and Mental Health

<http://journal.frontiersin.org/researchtopic/3463/neuropharmacology-of-drug-reward-implications-for-drug-addiction>

Past and/or Current Membership in Professional Societies: Hellenic Society for Neuroscience; Hellenic Society of Pharmacology; Federation of European Neuroscience Societies; British Association for Psychopharmacology; European Behavioural Pharmacology Society; International Brain Research Organization; International Cannabinoid Research Organization; Society for Neuroscience; Neuroscience Ireland (Board Member since 2012; Communications Officer 2014-2016)

Selected Grants, Fellowships, Honors and Awards:

2015 - 2019: Early Career Investigator Award for Research Funding (4 years) by the School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University

June 2015: British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) In Vivo Training Award to Dr. Styliani Vlachou and student Mrs. Sinead Collins Magee (1st time awarded to a researcher/student from the Republic of Ireland):

<http://www.bap.org.uk/invivo.php>

2014: Teaching Hero Award Winner by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in Ireland

2014: Highly Commended Research Project for Mr. Diego Garaialde by the Undergraduate Awards Global Summit 2014 Committee (Supervisor: Dr. Stella Vlachou)

2013-2015: Seven Travel awards by the School of Nursing and Human Sciences and/or the Faculty of Science and Health, Dublin City University, to attend scientific meetings or host summer students in the Behavioural Neuroscience Laboratory.

2009 – 2011: Post-doctoral Fellowship by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP; 18FT-0048; State of California, USA) to work on a project entitled: “Evaluation of GABA in impulsivity and nicotine dependence”.

August 2007-June 2009: Post-doctoral Fellowship by the Propondis Foundation, Pireaus, Attiki, Greece

2006: Travel award by the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) Committee to attend the 5th Forum of European Neuroscience (Vienna, July 2006)

2002-2005: Fellowship for Ph.D. studies by the Propondis Foundation, Pireaus, Attiki, Greece

2005: Travel award by the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) Committee to attend the 18th ECNP Congress (Amsterdam, Oct 2005)

2005: Bursary award by the European Behavioural Pharmacology Society (EBPS) Committee to attend the 11th Biennial EBPS Meeting (Barcelona, Sept 2005)

2005: Bursary award by the British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) Committee to attend the BAP 2005 Summer Meeting (Harrogate, UK, July 2005)

2004: Travel award by the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) Committee to attend the 4th Forum of European Neuroscience (Lisbon, July 2004)

July-Dec 2003: Marie Curie Fellowship (EC Contract No: HMPT-CT-2001-00234) Brighton (UK), University of Sussex, Dept. of Psychology Supervisor: Prof. David N. Stephens, duration: 6 months

2002: Third place Award from the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience for poster presentation at the 17th Annual Meeting

2001: Award for academic excellence for receiving the highest grades (1st prize in the School of Social Sciences) for the academic year 2000-2001

2000: Award for academic excellence for receiving the highest grades during the academic year 1998-1999

2000: Scholarship for academic excellence for receiving the highest grades during the academic year 1998-1999

1999: Chosen for scholarship for academic excellence for receiving the 5th highest grades during the academic year 1997-1998

Lectures, Seminars and Invited Talks: Over 20 invited talks, seminars and lectures since 2003.

Abstracts and Presentations in Conferences: Over 45 peer-reviewed abstracts for poster or oral presentations. Please see https://www.dcu.ie/info/staff_member.php?id_no=4433 for a full list of abstracts in Conferences.

Selected Neuroscientific Events Organisation:

Sept 2013 – Sept 2015: Co-ordinator of the DCU Organising Committee for the 9th Neuroscience Ireland Conference, 1st-2nd Sept 2015, DCU
June 2013 - June 2016: IBNS Program Committee Member
June 2013: Local Organising Committee Member for the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (IBNS) Meeting, The Grand Hotel Malahide, Dublin, Ireland

Other Scientific Contributions (addressed to the General Public)

Radio Interview: Brief radio interview on “The psychology of first impressions”, Psychology Today, TodayFM, 17/8/2017.

Newspaper Article: Contribution to: “Love is... “almost like a psychological disorder””, The Irish Times, 13/2/2014

Radio Interview: Brief Radio Interview on the article published in the Irish Times entitled: “Love is... “almost like a psychological disorder””, The Pat Kenny Show, Newstalk, 106-108 FM, 14/2/2014.

Film Documentary: Scientific contribution to the documentary "Yeah bonobos" (working title) directed by Rory Bresnihan (Park Films), on the similarities and differences between human and non-human primates' brain and behaviour, in particular the bonobo chimps, March 2014.

The Critical Minds Series: Psychology Diary for undergraduate Students: Series of psychological topics covered in brief videos published on the PSI website and on YouTube, Psychological Society of Ireland, Student Affairs Group, October 2013.

Community and Interests

- Secretary at the Board Council of the Hellenic Community of Ireland (March 2014 – March 2016)
- University of Sussex Alumnus
- Member of the American Friends of the University of Sussex: contact person offering advice for Sussex undergraduate and graduate students who want to conduct part of their undergraduate studies or continue their post-graduate studies in the USA.
- Supporter and/or member of organizations such as: Temple Street Children’s Hospital, Dublin, Ireland; World Wildlife Fund; The Nature Conservancy; National Geographic Society; National Wildlife Federation; Zoological Society of San Diego; ISPCA Ireland; DSPCA; The Smile of The Child Greece; Doctors Without Borders; Team Hope.
- 1987-2001: Volleyball player of the teams “Amazones” (1987-1996, New Erythrea, Athens) and “Arkadi” (1997-2001, Rethymno, Crete).
- 1997-2001: Volleyball player of the women’s team of the University of Crete.
- Volleyball player (1986-present); Current sports activities: running (independently and to raise funds for non-profit organizations), beach volley, cycling (independently, as well as to raise funds for organizations, such as ISPCA and The Smile of The Child), hiking.
- Gardening (previous member of the Roof Garden Project Group of the School of Nursing and Human Sciences, DCU)

Language Skills: Greek, English, French, Italian