

Nikola Holodkov, PhD

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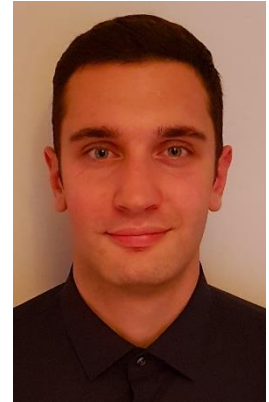
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Nationality: Serbian, Italian

Language(s): Serbian (native), Italian (high fluency), English (C, British Council)



Summary

Junior research scientist in the field of molecular biology, physiology and neuroscience. Recognized for important discoveries related to GABA metabolism in ALS animal models. Competent in project management, experimental design and implementation, and student supervision. Expertise in biochemistry and molecular biology techniques.

PhD student representative. Improved the PhD program and gained valuable transferable skills.

Scientific educator. Board member of Dana Foundation, assistant teacher and author of Smart Science. Excellent written and verbal communication proficiency.

Education:

2015 – 2018, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Neuroscience, The Open University, London, UK

2015 – 2015, Arturo Falaschi Fellowship, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy

2014 – 2015, Master of Science (MSc) degree in Neuroscience, Faculty of Biology, Belgrade, Serbia

2010 – 2014, Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Molecular Biology and Physiology, Faculty of Biology, Belgrade, Serbia

Professional experience:

2015 – 2018, PhD student, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy

Worked *in vivo* (*Drosophila melanogaster*) and *in vitro* (S2 cell cultures, iPSC) to study the pathological mechanisms of ALS disease.

- Learned the scientific method and specialized in the following biochemistry and molecular biology techniques: immuno-detection assay (SDS-PAGE, IHC/IF, ICC/IF), microscope handling (stereo, live imaging, confocal), image processing (ImageJ), DNA cloning, drug screening, gene therapy.
- Proposed ideas, led projects, designed experiments, supervised students, presented results to supervisors (and at conferences), prepared manuscripts and published in peer reviewed journals.

2015 – 2018, PhD student representative, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy

- Skillful in careful listening, problem solving, leadership, communication and cooperation with institutional and governmental peak bodies. Improved important aspects of the PhD program by introducing for the first-time soft skills workshops, solved complicated logistical issues and organized after-work events.
- Represented ICGEB at Trieste Next city fair for three consecutive years.

2012 – Current, Board member and primary field officer, Dana Foundation, Belgrade, Serbia

- Contributed to the organization and implementation of several classes and courses dedicated to the education of elementary and high school students in matters that ranged from understanding the harmful

effects of nicotine, alcohol and drugs abuse, to the risks of unprotected sex and importance of environmental protection.

- Activities included the submission of project proposals, discussion of project terms and conditions, assembly and presentation of the educational material and reporting of outcomes. The success of the agenda led to the invitation to assist the conferences at the United Nations Office in Geneva (Palais des Nations) in 2014.

Volunteer experience:

2018, Assistant teacher, The UWC Adriatic, Trieste, Italy

- Assisted science teachers in implementing the program and helping in the daily mansions of the school.

2002 – 2006, Volunteer, Immaginario Scientifico, Trieste, Italy

- Assisted in the organization of classes and workshops

Hobbies:

- Love to play tennis and winner of several tennis awards.
- Love outdoors, hiking and biking. Enjoy travelling, meeting people and sharing experiences.
- Active reader of global and local newspapers, and scientific journals. Subscriber to New York Times, Pharma Times, Nature and Science.

Publications:

- “Neurotransmitter disbalance results in ALS fly models neurodegeneration”, 1st author, manuscript in preparation, 2018
- “Downregulation of glutamic acid decarboxylase in Drosophila TDP-43 null brains provokes paralysis by affecting the organization of the neuromuscular synapses”, 2nd author, Scientific Reports, Nature Publishing Group, 2018
- “Smart Science”, 1st co-author and translator with Prof. Gianfranco Cicognani, Hesperia Edu, Belgrade, Serbia, 2010

Courses, conferences and presentations:

- Int’l Symposium Arturo Falaschi, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy, 2018 (speaker and chairman)
- Int’l Course “*Drosophila melanogaster* models for neurodegenerative diseases”, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy, 2018 (speaker and organizer)
- Int’l Course “Atypical Dementias”, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy, 2017
- Int’l Symposium Arturo Falaschi, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy, 2017 (speaker and chairman)
- Int’l Symposium Arturo Falaschi, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy, 2016
- Int’l Course “Fluorescence Microscopy”, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy, 2016
- Int’l Course “RNA Structure and Function”, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy, 2016
- Int’l Symposium Arturo Falaschi, ICGEB, Trieste, Italy, 2015
- Int’l Course “Advances in Neuroscience”, Faculty of Biology, Belgrade, Serbia, 2015
- Int’l Group of Experts Session on Energy Efficiency, UNECE, Geneva, Switzerland, 2014
- Multimedia presentation “500 years of Science in the Balkans”, Pozarevac and Dimitrovgrad, Serbia, 2014 (author, organizer and presenter)
- Int’l Conference “Technological Innovations for Sustainable Energy Generation”, Pozarevac, Serbia, 2013

- Multimedia presentation “The Heritage of Our Vices” – Biomedical evidences from smoke, alcohol, drugs abuse and unprotected sexual habits, Pozarevac and Belgrade, Serbia, 2013 (author, organizer and presenter)