

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name and surname **Nikolina Stojanović**
Title Ph.D.
Date and place of birth 15.11.1984., Zagreb, Hrvatska
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**CONTACT**

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EDUCATION

07/2014 Ph.D. in natural sciences (scientific field - biochemistry and molecular biology) University Postgraduate Interdisciplinary Doctoral Study Molecular Biosciences, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, University of Dubrovnik, Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb
dissertation title: „Integrin $\alpha\beta3$ mediated drug resistance in human tongue squamous carcinoma cells “; supervisor: dr.sc Andreja Ambriović Ristov
03/2009 B.S. in molecular biology; Undergraduate and graduate study of Molecular Biology, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb dissertation title: „ $\alpha\beta3$ integrin mediated drug resistance in human tongue squamous cell carcinoma “; supervisor: dr.sc Andreja Ambriović Ristov
1999 - 2003 XV. gymnasium, Zagreb

WORK EXPERIENCE

02/2019 - research associate, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Division of Molecular Biology
12/2017 – 02/2019 senior research assistant (postdoc), Ruđer Bošković Institute, Division of Molecular Biology
01/2015 – 09/2017 senior research assistant (postdoc), Ruđer Bošković Institute, Division of Molecular Biology
05/2009 – 01/2015 research assistant (PhD student), Ruđer Bošković Institute, Division of Molecular Biology

SCIENTIFIC TRAINING

- 09/2016 – 12/2017 postdoctoral training, Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, Massachusetts General Hospital; Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA; 15 months
- 09/2015 short training, Institut für Toxikologie, Universitätsmedizin Mainz, Mainz, Germany; 3.5 weeks
- 09/2014 short training, Institut für Toxikologie, Universitätsmedizin Mainz, Mainz, Germany; 3.5 weeks
- 09/2013 short training, Institut für Toxikologie, Universitätsklinikum Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany; 3 weeks
- 09/2012 short training, Institut für Toxikologie, Universitätsklinikum Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany; 2.5 weeks

SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS

- the role of integrins and integrin-mediated signal pathways, specifically in migration and invasion of tumor cells and tumor cell response to antitumor drugs, the composition of integrin $\alpha\text{v}\beta 5$ adhesion complex, changes in adhesion and mobility of podocytes (cells within the nephron) that can lead to the development of renal diseases
- the cytotoxic potential of newly synthesized compounds in tumor therapy

SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

- 2026-2027 'Integrirana validacija analize RNA-seq i analiza proteina urinarnih podocita kao potencijalnih biljega kronične bolesti bubrega uz funkcionalnu validaciju u primarnoj kulturi' (Integrated validation of RNA-seq analysis and analysis of urinary podocyte proteins as potential biomarkers of chronic kidney disease, with functional validation in primary culture) IRB project as part of the Program to increase participation in competitive project funding, KP1 Preparation and development of national project proposals; **Principal Investigator**;
- 2025-2026 'Uloga proteina talin2 i KANK2 u regulaciji ekspresije aktin vezujućih proteina, dinamike aktinskog citoskeleta i migracije u stanicama melanoma' ('The role of talin2 and KANK2 proteins in the regulation of actin-binding protein expression, actin cytoskeleton dynamics, and migration in melanoma cells'), IRB project as part of the Program to increase participation in competitive project funding, KP2 Preparation and development of international project proposals; **Principal Investigator** ;
- 2024-2025 'Potencijalni farmakogenetski biljezi u kroničnoj bolesti bubrega' ('Potential pharmacogenetic markers in chronic kidney disease'), IRB project as part of the Program to increase participation in competitive project funding, KP1 Preparation and development of national project proposals; **Principal Investigator**;
- 2023-2024 'Uloga komunikacije proteina talin2 i KANK2 u regulaciji dinamike aktinskog citoskeleta u stanicama melanoma MDA-MB-435S' ('The role of communication of talin2 and KANK2 proteins in the regulation of actin cytoskeleton dynamics in MDA-MB-435S melanoma cells'), The foundation of the Croatian academy of science and arts, Development of scientific research and artistic work project; **Principal Investigator**
- 2020 - 2024 „Integrin $\alpha\text{v}\beta 5$ -associated Focal and Reticular Adhesions in Melanoma” (Croatian science foundation, Croatia); Collaborator
- 2016 - 2017 „Role of dynamin oligomerization in podocyte structure and function” (NIH/NIDDK, USA) Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School – postdoctoral research

- 2014 - 2018 „Molecular mechanisms of chemosensitisation of human breast carcinoma and melanoma cell lines by silencing of integrins” (Croatian science foundation, Croatia); Collaborator
- 2014 - 2015 „Sensitization Of Melanoma And Glioma Cells To Alkylating Drugs By Integrin $\alpha\beta 3$, $\alpha\beta 5$, $\alpha 3\beta 1$ and $\alpha 4\beta 1$ Silencing”(bilateral project with Institute for toxicology, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany); Collaborator
- 2014 - 2015 „Novel ruthenium complexes with potential anticancer activity”(bilateral project with Institute for toxicology, Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia); Collaborator
- 2012 - 2013 „Platinum compounds: Drug-induced stress responses and mechanisms of drug-resistance”(bilateral project with Institute for toxicology, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany); Collaborator
- 2007 - 2013 „Increase of adenovirus transduction efficacy and resistance to cytostatics”(Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatia); Collaborator

OTHER PROJECTS

- 2013 „Seeing in the dark” project financed by the Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs and organizationally supported by the Institute for the Danube Region and central Europe

TEACHING

- 2023 lecturer of several methods within the framework of "Initial course of cellular and molecular biology" and "Advanced course of cellular and molecular biology", Ruđer Bošković Institute

MENTORSHIP

https://www.croris.hr/crosbi/searchByContext/2/29140?VRSTA_RAD=8;

Co-supervisor of graduation thesis

2022 Kaatje Coopmans, „The correlation between increased velocity of microtubule growth and increased sensitivity to paclitaxel upon integrin αV or KANK2 knockdown in melanoma cell line MDA-MB-435S reveals a possible mechanism”, University of Hasselt - U Hasselt, Belgium; supervisor: Andreja Ambriović Ristov

Immediate supervisor of graduation thesis

2017 Nebojša Vujnović, „Combination effect of tyrosine kinase inhibitors and antitumor drugs in human melanoma cells”, Prirodoslovno matematički fakultet, Zagreb; supervisor: Andreja Ambriović Ristov

2015 Alen Kovačević, „Proteomic analysis of human breast cancer cells MDA-MB-435S after silencing integrin αv ”, Prirodoslovno matematički fakultet, Zagreb; supervisor: Andreja Ambriović Ristov, Mario Cindrić

2015 Ivan Faraho, „Differential proteome analysis of Cal27 and Cal27-2B1 human tongue squamous cell carcinoma cell lines”, Prirodoslovno matematički fakultet, Zagreb; supervisor: Andreja Ambriović Ristov

2014 Petra Kureljak, „Investigation of cytotoxicity of two arene- ruthenium complexes with bidentate azocarboxamide as ligand”, Farmaceutsko-biokemijski fakultet, Zagreb; supervisor: Osmak, Maja

2013 Sanja Soviček, „Cytotoxicity screening of new compounds diazenedicarboxamides as potential cytostatics”, Prirodoslovno matematički fakultet, Zagreb; supervisor: Maja Osmak

2013 Kristijan Pažur, „Disulfide bonds in retargeting motifs RGD or NGR inserted into the adenovirus tip 5”, Prirodoslovno matematički fakultet, Zagreb; supervisor: Andreja Ambriović Ristov

2013 Krešimir Ferenčak, „Effect of integrin αv or $\alpha 4$ silencing on sensitivity of human breast

cancer cells to vincristine and paclitaxel “, Prirodoslovno matematički fakultet, Zagreb; supervisor: Andreja Ambriović Ristov

2012 Ana Dekanić, „ Influence of integrin $\alpha\beta 3$ and $\alpha\beta 5$ silencing on sensitivity of tumor cells to cisplatin “, Prirodoslovno matematički fakultet, Zagreb; supervisor: Andreja Ambriović Ristov

REVIEWER

Peer review of articles for international journals: Toxicology Letters, Gene Therapy, Cell Biology International, cells, cancers, International Journal of Molecular Sciences, Medicine, Periodicum Biologorum; Review Editor Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology

PUBLICATIONS (LISTED IN DETAIL AT THE END OF THE CV)

- <https://www.croris.hr/osobe/profil/29140> ; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7763-4154>

21 publications WoS, 513 citations, h index 12, Google Scholar 738 citations, h-index 15

SKILLS

- cell culture (tumor cells, cells that differentiate), isolation of stable transfectants, transient transfection, gene silencing, live cell imaging, confocal microscopy, super-resolution microscopy, immunofluorescence, flow cytometry, Western blot analysis, PCR, reverse transcription and quantitative real-time PCR, nucleic acid and protein isolation, DNA platination, measurement of cell adhesion, migration and invasion, measurement of cell apoptosis, autophagy, cell cycle, cell proliferation assays, cloning into plasmid vectors, working with adenoviruses and lentiviruses, murine Animal Care and Use
- MS Office, Adobe Photoshop, Corel DRAW, applications for data analysis and statistical processing (FlowJo, ImageJ, FCS Express, Leica Application Suite X, Graphpad, ImageLab, Scaffold)

ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

- 2025 member of organizing committee of the meeting „ Adhere2”, the second conference in a series of conferences focused on cell adhesion (<https://event.fourwaves.com/adhere2/pages>)
- 2023 member of organizing committee of the meeting „ Adhere1”, the first conference in a series of future annual conferences focused on cell adhesion (<https://event.fourwaves.com/adhere1/pages>)
- 2014 member of organizing committee of the congress „HDIR-3: From Bench to Clinic, third meeting with international participation “(<http://hdir-3.hdir.hr/>)
- 2014 member of organizing committee, and secretary of summer school „Power of Viral Vectors in Gene Therapy and Basic Science “(<http://hmd-cms.hr/viral-vectors/>)
- 2013 member of organizing committee of the project „Seeing in the dark“
- 2012 member of organizing committee of the congress „HDIR-2: From Bench to Clinic, second meeting with international participation “(<http://hdir-2.hdir.hr/>)
co-editor of the congress „HDIR-2: From Bench to Clinic, second meeting with international participation“Book of Abstracts

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2014 - 2015 Council of Young Scientists representative at Scientific Council of Ruđer Bošković Institute
- 2012 representative of assistants of Division of Molecular biology at the Biology Scientific Council Council of Young Scientists at Ruđer Bošković Institute
- 2011 - 2015 president of Council of Young Scientists at Ruđer Bošković Institute
- 2011 - 2015 representative of assistants of Division of Molecular biology at Council of Young Scientists

at Ruđer Bošković Institute
 2011 - 2012 member of working group for cooperation between Ruđer Bošković Institute and University of Zagreb assistants, Croatia

POPULARIZATION OF SCIENCE

2023 Guest in national radio popular science programme ('Znanstveno Oko')
 2019 Participant in the Open day (#ODI2019) of Institute Ruđer Bošković: Gene therapy-look into the future workshop
 2019 Guest in national television popular science programme ('Znanstveni krugovi')
 2011 – 2014 member of the Croatian Biological Society Small council
 2011 – 2014* coordinator of "Mladi istraživači" ("Young researchers"), section of Croatian Biological Society *until 2015 – unofficial deputy of the section coordinator (<http://mladi-istrzivaci.irb.hr/index.html>)
 2013 Ruđer Bošković Institute "Open days" guide
 2010 Ruđer Bošković Institute "Open days" guide

HONORS AND PRIZES

2016, 2018, Ruđer Bošković Institute-Best scientific paper award (Stojanović et al., 2016; Stojanović
 2020, 2021, et al., 2018; Paradžik et al., 2020; Tadijan et al.2021; Lončarić et al., 2023; Samaržija et
 2023, 2024. al., 2024)
 2016 The society of university teachers, scholars and other scientists to young scientists and artists award, Zagreb, Croatia
 2016 "Željko Trgovčević" award for young researchers in the field of molecular biology, Zagreb, Croatia
 2014 poster prize, „HDIR-3 : From Bench to Clinic Third meeting with international participation“, Zagreb, Croatia
 2014 poster prize, summer school: „Power of viral vectors in gene therapy and basic science“, Primošten, Croatia
 2012 The EACR Meeting Bursary for attending the „22nd Biennial Congress of the European Association for Cancer Research EACR-22: From Basic Research to Personalised Cancer Treatment“, Barcelona, Spain
 2011 Youth Travel Fund Grant for attending the „FEBS/EACR advanced lecture course: Molecular Mechanisms in Signal Transduction and Cancer“, Spetses, Greece
 2010 poster prize, „HDIR-1 : From Bench to Clinic first meeting with international participation“, Zagreb, Croatia
 2003-2007 scholarship of Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatia

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- first author of 19, co-author of 53 congress abstracts (<https://www.croris.hr/osobe/profil/29140>), 3 congress abstracts published in journals cited in Current Contents

SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS

2022 EMBO workshop on research integrity, Zagreb, Croatia
 2022 1st Workshop on Mass Spectrometry in Life Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia
 2021 Educational workshop for mentors, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND NATURE CONSERVATION postgraduate interdisciplinary university study programme, J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek,

Croatia

- 2018 Zebrica (*Danio rerio*) kao modelni organizam u biološkim, biomedicinskim i okolišnim istraživanjima, Zagreb, Croatia
- 2018 Commercialisations of RDI results for young researchers, Zagreb, Croatia
- 2014 Power of Viral Vectors in Gene Therapy and Basic Science Summer School, Primošten, Croatia
- 2014 The InnoMol Proteomics Workshop, Zagreb, Croatia
- 2011 FEBS/EMBO Advanced Lecture Course „Molecular Mechanisms in Signal Transduction and Cancer“, Spetses, Greece
- 2009 2nd European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Young Scientists Forum, Zagreb, Croatia
- 2008 Adenoviruses: Basic biology to gene therapy, Zadar, Croatia
- 2008 11th CEEPUS Biomedicine Students Council Summer University, Molecular Diagnostics, Multidisciplinary Approach, Zadar, Croatia

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (thus member of FEBS)
 Croatian Association for Cancer Research (thus member of EACR)
 Croatian Genetic Society
 Croatian Microbiological Society

LANGUAGES

english (Cambridge English: Advanced/Certificate of Advanced English)
 german

PUBLICATIONS

1. Rac, A., Lončarić, M., Stojanović, N., Fatima, M., Resetar, M., Hrsak, D., Humphries, J. D., Humphries, M. J. & Ambriovic-Ristov, A. (2026) Regulation of reticular adhesions by KANK2 and talin2 in two melanoma cell lines. *Cell Commun Signal* **24**, 338. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12964-026-02904-1>
2. Stojanovic, N., Rac, A., Loncaric, M., Tadijan, A., Paradzik, M., Acman, M., Humphries, J. D., Humphries, M. J. & Ambriovic-Ristov, A. (2026) KANK2 at focal adhesions regulates their maintenance and dynamics, while at fibrillar adhesions it influences cell migration via microtubule-dependent mechanism. *Cell Commun Signal* **24**, 224 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12964-026-02771-w>
3. Barbarić, L., Oskomić, M., Horvat, A., Ester, K., Stojanović, N. et al. (2026). Dipeptidyl Peptidase 3 Knockdown in HeLa Cells Induces G0/G1 Cell Cycle Arrest Associated with Upregulation of p21 Protein. *BIOCELL*, *50*(8), 10. <https://doi.org/10.32604/biocell.2026.080282>
4. #Samaržija, I.; Lukiychuk, V.; Lončarić, M.; Rac-Justament, A.; Stojanović, N.; Gorodetska, I.; Kahya, U.; Humphries, J.D.; Fatima, M.; Humphries, M.J.; et al. (2024) The extracellular matrix component perlecan/HSPG2 regulates radioresistance in prostate cancer cells. *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology*, *12*, doi:10.3389/fcell.2024.1452463.
5. #Lončarić, M., Stojanović, N., Rac-Justament, A., Coopmans, K.; Majhen, D., Humphries, J. D., Humphries, M. J.; Ambriović Ristov, A. (2023) Talin2 and KANK2 functionally interact to regulate

- microtubule dynamics, paclitaxel sensitivity and cell migration in the MDA-MB-435S melanoma cell line. *Cell Mol Biol Lett* 28, 56. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s11658-023-00473-6>
6. #Tadijan, A., Humphries, J., Samaržija, I., Stojanović, N., Zha, J., Čuljak, K., Tomić, M., Paradžik, M., Nestić, D., Kang, H., Humphries, M. & Ambriović-Ristov, A. (2021) The Tongue Squamous Carcinoma Cell Line Cal27 Primarily Employs Integrin $\alpha 6 \beta 4$ -Containing Type II Hemidesmosomes for Adhesion Which Contribute to Anticancer Drug Sensitivity. *Frontiers in cell and developmental biology*, 9, 786758, 17 doi:10.3389/fcell.2021.786758. (PMID: 34977030)
 7. Samaržija, I., Dekanić, A., Humphries, J., Paradžik, M., Stojanović, N., Humphries, M. & Ambriović-Ristov, A. (2020) Integrin Crosstalk Contributes to the Complexity of Signalling and Unpredictable Cancer Cell Fates. *Cancers (Basel)*, 12 (7), 1910, 26. (PMID: 32679769)
 8. #Paradžik, M., Humphries, J., Stojanović, N., Nestić, D., Majhen, D., Dekanić, A., Samaržija, I., Sedda, D., Weber, I., Humphries, M. & Ambriović-Ristov, A. (2020) KANK2 links $\alpha V \beta 5$ focal adhesions to microtubules and regulates sensitivity to microtubule poisons and cell migration. *Frontiers in cell and developmental biology*, 8, 125, 17 doi:10.3389/fcell.2020.00125. (PMID: 32195252)
 9. Kralj, J., Bolje, A., Stupin Polančec, D., Gržan, T., Tupek, A., Steiner, I., Stojanović, N., Hohloch, S., Urankar, D., Osmak, M., Sarkar, B., Brozovic, A. & Košmrlj, J. (2019) Half-Sandwich Ir(III) and Os(II) Complexes of Pyridyl-Mesoionic Carbenes as Potential Anticancer Agents. *Organometallics*, 38 (21), 4082-4092 doi:10.1021/acs.organomet.9b00327.
 10. #Stojanovic N*, Dekanic A*, Paradzik M, Majhen D, Ferencak K, Ruscic J, Bardak I, Supina C, Tomicic MT, Christmann M, Osmak M, Ambriovic-Ristov A. Differential effects of integrin αv knockdown and cilengitide on sensitisation of triple-negative breast cancer and melanoma cells to microtubule poisons. *Mol Pharmacol*. 2018 Sep 27. pii: mol.118.113027. *equal contribution (PMID: 30262596)
 11. Hayek SS, Koh KH, Grams ME, Wei C, Ko YA, Li J, Samelko B, Lee H, Dande RR, Lee HW, Hahm E, Peev V, Tracy M, Tardi NJ, Gupta V, Altintas MM, Garborcauskas G, Stojanovic N, Winkler CA, Lipkowitz MS, Tin A, Inker LA, Levey AS, Zeier M, Freedman BI, Kopp JB, Skorecki K, Coresh J, Quyyumi AA, Sever S, Reiser J. A tripartite complex of suPAR, APOL1 risk variants and $\alpha v \beta 3$ integrin on podocytes mediates chronic kidney disease. *Nat Med*. 2017 Aug;23(8):945-953. (PMID: 28650456)
 12. Christmann M, Diesler K, Majhen D, Steigerwald C, Berte N, Freund H, Stojanović N, Kaina B, Osmak M, Ambriović-Ristov A, Tomicic MT. Integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$ silencing sensitizes malignant glioma cells to temozolomide by suppression of homologous recombination repair. *Oncotarget*. 2017 Apr 25;8(17):27754-27771 (PMID: 27487141)
 13. Steiner I*, Stojanović N*, Bolje A, Brozovic A, Polančec D, Ambriović-Ristov A, Radić Stojković M, Piantanida I, Eljuga D, Košmrlj J, Osmak M. Discovery of 'click' 1,2,3-triazolium salts as potential anticancer drugs. *Radiol Oncol*. 2016 Jul 19;50(3):280-8. *equal contribution (PMID: 27679544)

14. #Stojanović N, Brozovic A, Majhen D, Bosnar MH, Fritz G, Osmak M, Ambriović-Ristov A. Integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$ expression in tongue squamous carcinoma cells Cal27 confers anticancer drug resistance through loss of pSrc(Y418). *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2016 Aug;1863(8):1969-78. (PMID: 27108184)
15. Krüger K, Thomale J, Stojanović N, Osmak M, Henninger C, Bormann S, Fritz G. Platinum-induced kidney damage: Unraveling the DNA damage response (DDR) of renal tubular epithelial and glomerular endothelial cells following platinum injury. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2015 Mar;1853(3):685-98. (PMID: 25565603)
16. Sommer MG, Kureljak P, Urankar D, Schweinfurth D, Stojanović N, Bubrin M, Gazvoda M, Osmak M, Sarkar B, Košmrlj J. Combining [arene-Ru] with azocarboxamide to generate a complex with cytotoxic properties. *Chemistry*. 2014 Dec 22;20(52):17296-9. (PMID: 25376425)
17. Brozovic A, Stojanović N, Ambriović-Ristov A, Brozović Krijan A, Polanc S, Osmak M. 3-Acetyl-bis(2-chloro-4-nitrophenyl)triazene is a potent antitumor agent that induces oxidative stress and independently activates the stress-activated protein kinase/c-Jun NH2-terminal kinase pathway. *Anticancer Drugs*. 2014 Mar;25(3):289-95. (PMID: 24322543)
18. Majhen D, Stojanović N, Vukić D, Pichon C, Leduc C, Osmak M, Ambriović-Ristov A. Increased adenovirus Type 5 mediated transgene expression due to RhoB down-regulation. *PLoS One*. 2014 Jan 22;9(1):e86698
19. Vajs J, Soviček S, Kureljak P, Stojanović N, Steiner I, Eljuga D, Urankar D, Kočevan M, Košmrlj J, Polanc S, Osmak M. Synthesis and biological activity of new diazenedicarboxamides as potential anticancer agents. *Acta Chim Slov*. 2013;60(4):842-52. (PMID: 24362988)
20. Stojanovic N, Urankar D, Brozović A, Ambriović-Ristov A, Osmak M, Kosmrlj J. Design and evaluation of biological activity of diazenecarboxamide-extended cisplatin and carboplatin analogues. *Acta Chim Slov*. 2013;60(2):368-74. (PMID: 23878941)
21. Majhen D, Stojanović N, Špeljko T, Brozovic A, De Zan T, Osmak M, Ambriović-Ristov A. Increased expression of the coxsackie and adenovirus receptor downregulates $\alpha v \beta 3$ and $\alpha v \beta 5$ integrin expression and reduces cell adhesion and migration. *Life Sci*. 2011 Aug 15;89(7-8):241-9. (PMID: 21712047)

#manuscript received annual award of Ruđer Bošković Institute for best scientific publication