

1 CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION	
SURNAME	BITCHAVA
NAME	KONSTANTINA
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TEL.	+302105294405

CURRENT POSITION	
2022 -	Associate Professor Department of Animal Science, School of Animal Biosciences, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

PREVIOUS POSITIONS	
2016 -2022	Researcher in Diseases of Fish, Shellfish and Crustaceans Veterinary Research Institute, Hellenic Agricultural Organization DIMITRA, Greece
2014-2016	Veterinarian Freelancer - Ichthyopathologist Freshwater and Marine fish farms, Greece
2013 -2015	Post-Doctoral Researcher Veterinary School, University of Thessaly, Greece
2010-2016	Veterinarian freelancer with laboratory and administrative duties Private veterinary laboratory 'Vet In Progress plus', Greece

EDUCATION	
2018 -2020	School of Economics, Business Administration & Legal Studies, International Hellenic University, Greece, "Biochemical and molecular characterization of bacterial pathogens isolated from the most important fish species cultured in Greece", Master of Science (MSc) in Bioeconomy: Biotechnology and Law
2004-2010	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly, Greece, "Study of the pathogenesis, pathology and susceptibility of different euryhaline fish species to Noda virus, raised under different salinity conditions.", Doctor of Philosophy
2006-2009	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in cooperation with the T.E.I of EPIRUS, Greece, is Title: "Development of real time PCR for an epidemiological survey of the presence of Noda virus in the Greek aquaculture and the titration of the virus in fish tissues.", Master of Science in Aquaculture - Aquatic Animal Health
1998-2004	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly, Greece

PUBLICATIONS

- Virulence genes and in vitro antibiotic profile of *Photobacterium damsealae* strains, isolated from fish reared in Greek aquaculture facilities. Athanasios Lattos, Ioannis A. Giantsis, Eleni Tsavea, Markos Kolygas, Fotini Athanasopoulou and Konstantina Bitchava. Animals, accepted, to be published (2022).
- The Implication of Vibrio Bacteria in the Winter Mortalities of the Critically Endangered *Pinna nobilis*. Lattos, A., Bitchava, K., Giantsis, I.A., Theodorou, J.A., Batargias, C., Michaelidis, B. Microorganisms, 9(5), 922 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms9050922>
- First Report of Isolation and Genome Sequence of *L. petauri* Strain from a Rainbow Trout Lactococcosis Outbreak. Kotzamanidis, C., Malousi, A., Bitchava, K., Vafeas, G., Chatzidimitriou, D., Skoura, L., ... & Zdragas, A. Current Microbiology, 1-8 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00284-020-01905-8>
- Investigation of routes of entry and dispersal pattern of RGNNV in tissues of European sea bass, *Dicentrarchus labrax*. Lampou, E., Dovas, C., Margaroni, M., Chasalevris, T., Pappas, I. S., Dotsika, E., ... & Bitchava, K. Journal of Fish Diseases, 43(11), 1363-1371(2020), <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.13215>
- Occurrence and molecular characterization of betanodaviruses in fish and invertebrates of the Greek territorial waters. Bitchava, K., Chasalevris, T., Lampou, E., Athanassopoulou, F., Economou, V., Dovas, C.I. Journal of Fish Diseases, 42(12), 1773-1783 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.13098>
- "Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER)" K. Bitchava. Book: Aspects of Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture: 461-474, (2013)
- "Lymphocystis" K. Bitchava. Book: Aspects of Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture: 461-474, (2013).
- Fatty acid's content and potential health benefits of consuming gilthead sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) and sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*). Lenas, D., Papadimitriou, E., Bitchava, C. and Nathanailides, C. Acta Alimentaria, 40(1): 45-51. (2011)
- Antibacterial drugs in products originating from aquaculture: assessing the risks to public welfare. G. Rigos, K. Bitchava and I. Negas. Mediterranean Marine Science, 2010: 149-201, (2010), <https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.89>
- Prevalence of *Listeria* spp. in freshwater fish (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* and *Carassius gibelio*) and the environment of fish markets in Northern Greece. Papadopoulos Th., Abraham A, Sergelidis D., Kirkoudis I., Bitchava, J Hellenic Vet Med Soc 61(1): 15-22. (2010)
- Main pathological conditions in Mediterranean cultured fish". F. Athanassopoulou, K. Bitchava, P. Koumoundouros. Book: Recent Advances in Aquaculture Research, 2010: 149-201, (2010).
- An overview of the treatments for parasitic disease in Mediterranean aquaculture. Athanassopoulou F., Pappas I., Bitchava K., CIHEAM Journal Options Méditerranéennes, 2009: 65-8, (2009) <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/21951706/an-overview-of-the-treatments-for-parasitic-disease-in-mediterranean->
- Size-related effectiveness of Clove oil as anaesthetic for rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* Walbaum, 1792) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus* Linnaeus, 1758). C. Perdikaris, C. Nathanailides, E. Gouva, U.U. Gabriel, K. Bitchava, F. Athanasopoulou, A. Paschou, I. Paschos Revision 1. Acta Vet Brno: 2009 077-441-1RV (2009)
- Estimation of seasonality and prevalence of the isopod parasite *Ceratothoa oestroides*, Risso, 1836, in Greece. Vagianou St., Bitchava K., Athanasopoulou F., J Hellenic Vet Med Soc 60(1): 545. (2009)
- Study of the biological cycle of the isopod *Ceratothoa oestroides*, Risso, 1836 in sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) and sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*). Vagianou St., Bitchava K., Athanasopoulou F., J Hellenic Vet Med Soc 60(1): 614.(2009)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Location and morphological identification of Myxosporida and evaluation of the effect of freezing and Giemsa staining on the spore length. Gatzia K., Tzironi E., Bitchava K., Athanassopoulou F. J Hellenic Vet Med Soc 60(1): 562. (2009)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fish vaccination. Papadopoulos P., Bitchava K., Tzironi E., Athanassopoulou F. J Hellenic Vet Med Soc 59(4): 308-319, (2008), https://doi.org/10.12681/jhvms.14965
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aquaculture Bacterial Bank in Greece; Methodology and first results. Angelidis P., Yiagnisis M., Vatsos I., Bitchava K., Teliousis K., Solomakos N., Athanassopoulou F. Scientific Annals of the Danube Delta Institute, 4, 5-18, (2008), https://doaj.org/article/ac02ce9d7bb247c683205d8970d05d48
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “Laboratory notes of Ichthyopathology”, Tzironi E., Bitchava K., Athanassopoulou F. University lectures, University of Thessaly, Karditsa (2008).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use of prusian carp, <i>Carassius gibelio</i>, pituitaries in the artificial propagation of female common carp, <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>. Kosti E., Perdikaris C., Athanassopoulou F., Chantzaropoulos A., Vavatsikos M., Ergolavou A., Bitchava C., Paschos I. Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria, 38(2), 121-125. (2008)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fish vaccination. Papadopoulos P., Bitchava K., Tzironi E., Athanassopoulou F. J Hellenic Vet Med Soc 59(4): 308-319. (2008)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Case report: First incidence of Noda virus infection in sea bream (<i>Sparus auratus</i> L.), showing nervous clinical signs. Bitchava K., F. Athanassopoulou, E. Xylouri – Fragkiadaki, M. Papanastasopoulou, O. Sabatakou. International Journal of Aquaculture-Bamigheh, 59(1), 36-41, (2007), http://hdl.handle.net/10524/19202
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vagianou St., Bitchava K., Athanasopoulou F. (2006) Sea lice (<i>Ceratothoa oestroides</i>), (Risso, 1826), infestation in Mediterranean aquaculture: new information. J Hellenic Vet Med Soc 57(3): 223-230.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tsantilas H., Athanassopoulou F., Galatos A.D., Bitchava K. (2006) Welfare of fish. J Hellenic Vet Med Soc 57(2): 140-148.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/etc
▪ Aquaculture Europe, Rimini, Italy, 2022
▪ "Transversal skills" EU-CONEXUS RESEARCH FOR SOCIETY, Zadar, Croatia, 2022
▪ 15 th Panhellenic Veterinary Congress, Athens, Greece, 2022
▪ 18th Panhellenic Conference of Ichthyologists, Messolonghi, Greece, 2022
▪ SOFAS 2022, International Symposium on Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Trabzon, Turkey, 2022
▪ 3rd Online International Conference on Aquaculture and Fisheries, online, 2021
▪ 19th International Congress of Diseases of Fish and Shellfish, Porto, Portugal, 2019
▪ 41th Scientific Conference of the Hellenic Society of Biological Sciences, Katerini, Greece, 2019
▪ Short-Term Scientific Mission (STSM), Cost Action CA16231 "European Network of Vaccine Adjuvants (ENOVA)", Oslo, Norway, 2018
▪ Accredited by FELASA for the international program - "Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: mice, rats and zebrafish", University of Crete, Greece, 2018
▪ FISH 2018. Fish processing and aquaculture technologies. Moscow, Russia, 2018
▪ Aquaculture Europe 2017 - Cooperation for Growth. Dubrovnik, Croatia, 2017
▪ 11th Panhellenic Congress of Virology, Thessaloniki, Greece, 2017
▪ 2nd International Congress on Applied Ichthyology and Aquatic Environment, Messolonghi, Greece, 2016
▪ 41st World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress, Cartagena Colombia, 2016
▪ Aquaculture Europe 2016, Food for thought, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2016
▪ 37th Congress of the Greek Society of Biological Sciences, Volos, Greece, 2015
▪ 13 ^o Panhellenic Veterinary Congress, Athens, Greece, 2015
▪ 3rd Panhellenic Congress of Farm Animals & Food Hygiene, Ioannina, Greece, 2014
▪ 14th EAAP International Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, 2009
▪ World Aquaculture Society, Veracruz, Mexico, 2009
▪ 11th Panhellenic Veterinary Congress, Athens, Greece, 2009
▪ 3rd International Symposium in Hydrobiology and Fishery, Arta, Greece, 2008.
▪ 1st Panhellenic Congress of Farm Animals, Hygiene and Protection of Food, Athens, Greece, 2008
▪ Aquaculture Europe 2007, Competing Claims, Istanbul, Turkey, 2007
▪ Intensive training in virological diagnostic methods in the Italian reference laboratory for Nodavirus in Europe (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie) under the supervision of dr. G. Bovo, Padova, Italy, 2007
▪ 10th Panhellenic Veterinary Congress, Athens, Greece, 2006
▪ PADI Open Water Diver Certificate, Volos, Greece, 2006
▪ Certificate of training and intensive attendance of seminar entitled "Designing, introduction and analysis of HACCP systems", duration 33 hours organized by E.U.C.A.T. Athens, Greece, 2006
▪ Accreditation on ECDL Core, Karditsa, Greece, 2005

MEMBERSHIPS & REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

2020 - today	Reviewer, MDPI journals
2022	Member of the Organizing committee of the 15o Panhellenic Veterinary Congress, Athens, Greece, 2022
2020 – today	Section Editor, Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society
2020- today	Diplomate of the European College of Aquatic Animal Health ECAAH
2020 - today	Reviewer, “Aquaculture” journal
2016 - 2020	Reviewer, Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

2022	Diseases of Aquatic animals, School of Animal Biosciences, Agricultural University of Athens
2022	In Post Graduate Studies, Lecturer in “Molecular Techniques in disease diagnosis”, post-Graduate program entitled: Aquaculture - Aquatic Animal Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece
2021	In Post Graduate Studies, Lecturer in “Infectious Diseases III and non-infectious diseases”, post-Graduate program entitled: Aquaculture - Aquatic Animal Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece
2017	May 2017 Assistant in the laboratory practice of students in “Pathology of Cultured Aquatic Organisms”, School of Veterinary Medicine of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
2013-2014	Teaching Assistant in “Ichthyopathology and Ichthyology”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2013-2014	University scholarship in teaching and laboratory training of graduate student in “Fish Pathology”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2010-2011	Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology and Health Management of Aquatic Organisms”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2010	Full time Lecturer in “Ichthyology-Aquaculture-Pathology of farm animals”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2010	In Post Graduate Studies, Lecturer in “Basic disciplines of Ichthyopathology and Diagnostics” and Lecturer in “Infectious Diseases III”, Post-Graduate program entitled: Aquaculture - Aquatic Animal Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece
2009-2010	Full time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology-Laboratory support”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2009	Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyology-Aquaculture-Laboratory support”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2008-2009	Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology-Laboratory support”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2008	Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2007- 2008	Part time Lecturer in “Ichthyopathology-Laboratory support”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS & POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

2020	Member of the examining committee of the doctoral thesis of M.I. Tsertou «Noninfectious diseases of meagre, <i>Argyrosomus regius</i> », School of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece
2020	Member of the examining committee of the doctoral thesis of E. Gouva «Toxicological Alterations as fish's toxicosis markers from heavy metals and their impact during embryo's hatching and organogenesis», Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece
2019	Master thesis supervision of E. Dimitrakopoulou, in the postgraduate program "Aquaculture, Innovation and Sustainability" of the Department of Biology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
2018	Master thesis supervision of D. Papadopoulos, in the postgraduate program "Aquaculture, Innovation and Sustainability" of the Department of Biology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
2012 - 2015	Supervision of the PhD student E. Lampou, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece
2008	Master thesis supervision of G. Tosounis, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece
2008	Master thesis supervision of E. Tzironi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece
2007	Master thesis supervision of S. Panopoulos, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Thessaly, Greece

FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS

2020	Granted as de facto Diplomate of the European College of Aquatic Animal Health ECAAH
2018	Scholarship of the Ministry of Rural Development to attend a master's degree in English with the title: M.Sc., Bioeconomy: Biotechnology and Law, The International Hellenic University, Greece
2005-2009	Post Graduate Studies Scholarship from The State Scholarship Foundation of Greece (IKY) in the sector of Ichthyopathology after the successful participation in examination held by the foundation.
2002	Second place award in the annual competition of "WALTHAM" for graduate students of Veterinary Schools in Greece.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Project Title	Funding source	Period	Role of the PI
«WP2 - Science and Innovation Agenda and positioning in the ERA». EU-Conexus Research For Society	H2020	2022-2024	Member of the Research Team
«Nostrea - Intelligent Multispecies Shellfish Spawning Station»,	Operation Program of Central Macedonia	2021-2023	Scientific coordinator of the partner

	Region 2014-2020 "Investment Plans" (ESPA 2014-2020).		
"Improving SUSTainability and PERformance of aquaculture farming system: breeding for lactococcosis resistance in rainbow TROUT". SUPERTROUT	PRIMA–Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area	2020-2023.	PI of the Greek partner
"Effectiveness of plant and marine substances for the prevention and treatment of Microcotyle spp, Myxosporea and myxobacteriosis in farmed bream (<i>Sparus aurata</i> L.)." AltMedSea-bream	Call: "Aquaculture" - "Industrial Materials" - "Open Innovation in Culture"	2020-2023	Scientific coordinator of the partner
BIOFLOC System for the <i>P.japonicus</i> , <i>P.vannamei</i> , & <i>P.indicus</i> Shrimp Farming-SBIOFLOC	"Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation (EPANEK)", ESPA 2014-2020	2020-2023	Subcontractor
Correlation of biotic and abiotic factors for the development of a disease prognosis model in fish farming units (PROGNOSIS)	Fisheries and Maritime Operational Programme (Partnership Agreement (PA) 2014-2020).	2019-2023	Scientific coordinator of the project
European Network of Vaccine Adjuvants. ENOVA	Cost Action, EU Framework, H2020	2017-2021	Member of the Committee
ANASA: Definition and identification of pioneering products PDO or PGI of Amvrakikos Gulf, as part of the evaluation and sustainable management of fish stock of the gulf.	Public Investments Program, Greece	2015-2016	Researcher
Analysis of mechanisms of immunopathology in natural and experimental infections of fish with Noda virus: importance of the infection for public health.	Thalis, Ministry of Education and Religion	2013-2015	Post-Doctoral Researcher
Investigation and prevention of fish disease problems. Information-Training of fish farmers	Private company BIOMAR	2018-2019	Scientific Coordinator
Surveillance and protection of the health of trout farming. ELGO-DIMITRA	Private	2017-2018	PI
Study of residues in euryhaline fish	Private	2008-2008	Researcher
Bank for Pathogenic Microbes from Greek Aquaculture.	Program 4.6 "Pioneering programs". Ministry of agricultural development and food.	2007-2008	Researcher

2 SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

My primary degree is that of Veterinary Science with an expertise in Ichthyopathology (Master of Science, PhD and Post-Doc Researcher in that field). Since I started my postgraduate studies I have been part of 13 research programs and in 6 of them I worked as the Principal Investigator or Scientific Coordinator. I have worked in the private sector as an ichthyopathologist and from 20016, I worked as a Researcher in the Veterinary Research Institute in the Hellenic Agricultural Organization DIMITRA again in the field of Ichthyopathology. In April 2022 I was hired as an Associate Professor in the Agricultural University of Athens in the Laboratory of Hydrobiology of the School of Animal Biosciences.

Some indicative publications are:

Virulence genes and in vitro antibiotic profile of *Photobacterium damsealae* strains, isolated from fish reared in Greek aquaculture facilities. Athanasios Lattos, Ioannis A. Giantsis, Eleni Tsavea, Markos Kolygas, Fotini Athanasopoulou and Konstantina Bitchava. *Animals*, accepted, to be published (2022).

The Implication of *Vibrio* Bacteria in the Winter Mortalities of the Critically Endangered *Pinna nobilis*. Lattos, A., Bitchava, K., Giantsis, I.A., Theodorou, J.A., Batargias, C., Michaelidis, B. *Microorganisms*, 9(5), 922 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms9050922>

First Report of Isolation and Genome Sequence of *L. petauri* Strain from a Rainbow Trout Lactococcosis Outbreak. Kotzamanidis, C., Malousi, A., Bitchava, K., Vafeas, G., Chatzidimitriou, D., Skoura, L., ... & Zdragas, A. *Current Microbiology*, 1-8 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00284-020-01905-8>

Investigation of routes of entry and dispersal pattern of RGNNV in tissues of European sea bass, *Dicentrarchus labrax*. Lampou, E., Dovas, C., Margaroni, M., Chasalevris, T., Pappas, I. S., Dotsika, E., ... & Bitchava, K. *Journal of Fish Diseases*, 43(11), 1363-1371(2020), <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.13215>

Occurrence and molecular characterization of betanodaviruses in fish and invertebrates of the Greek territorial waters. Bitchava, K., Chasalevris, T., Lampou, E., Athanassopoulou, F., Economou, V., Dovas, C.I. *Journal of Fish Diseases*, 42(12), 1773-1783 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.13098>

“Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER)” K. Bitchava. Book: *Aspects of Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture*: 461-474, (2013)

“Lymphocystis” K. Bitchava. Book: *Aspects of Mediterranean Marine Aquaculture*: 461-474, (2013).

Main pathological conditions in Mediterranean cultured fish”. F. Athanassopoulou, K. Bitchava, P. Koumoundouros. Book: *Recent Advances in Aquaculture Research*, 2010: 149-201, (2010).

Fish vaccination. Papadopoulos P., Bitchava K., Tzironi E., Athanassopoulou F. *J Hellenic Vet Med Soc* 59(4): 308-319, (2008), <https://doi.org/10.12681/jhvms.14965>

I have also attended 31 scientific congresses and workshops.

Considering my activities regarding invited presentations I was invited in 2022 in “SUPER TROUT Winter School’ held in Turin, Italy to talk about “Fish Vaccinology”.

In 2019 I was invited in the Master’s Program "Sustainable management of water resources" of the Department of Agriculture, Ichthyology and Aquatic Environment to give a lecture entitled "Diseases of ornamental fish species and measures to deal with them" in the course "Hygiene of Water Resources".

In 2018, I was invited in the “Meeting of the SCAR CWG on Animal Health & Welfare Research” held in Thessaloniki, Greece to talk about “The aquaculture sector in Greece. Fish diseases and research prospects”.

In 2018 I was also invited in Moscow, Russia to talk in the conference “FISH 2018” about “Investigation of the route of entry of RGNNV in the tissues of European seabass, *Dicentrarchus Labrax*”.

In 2020 I was granted as de facto Diplomate of the European College of Aquatic Animal Health ECAAH

Konstantina Bitchava

In 2018 I took a scholarship of the Ministry of Rural Development to attend a master's degree in English with the title: M.Sc., Bioeconomy: Biotechnology and Law, The International Hellenic University, Greece. That was my second Master degree and the thesis title was "Biochemical and molecular characterization of bacterial pathogens isolated from the most important fish species cultured in Greece", which is very relevant to this proposal. Additionally, my Post-Doc study was very relevant to this proposal and the title is: Analysis of mechanisms of immunopathology in natural and experimental infections of fish with Noda virus: importance of the infection for public health. In 2005 I gained a Post Graduate Studies Scholarship from The State Scholarship Foundation of Greece (IKY) in the sector of Ichthyopathology after the successful participation in examination held by the foundation.

