

Vaia Gialama

Biologist | Neuroscience Researcher | Microbiology Analyst

Biologist, bringing hands-on experience in aseptic techniques, GMP compliance, and cleanroom operations gained through microbiology and neuroscience research. Committed to contributing precision, quality, and a strong foundation in laboratory standards and data analysis to high-performing production environments. Passionate about bridging the gap between neuroscience research and public understanding through innovative science communication.

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🌐 theneuroprojectvp.wordpress.com/

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Intern

University of Liège

03/2024 - 11/2024

Liège, Belgium

- Configured and optimized EEG and BIOPAC systems for clinical and behavioral research, ensuring precise data acquisition and reliability in experimental outcomes.
- Conducted electrophysiological diagnostics (EMG, ECG) and performed advanced EEG preprocessing, enhancing the accuracy of neurophysiological data analysis.
- Collected, analyzed, and interpreted complex neurophysiological datasets, contributing to high-impact research findings and peer-reviewed publications.
- Performed comprehensive literature reviews and scientific writing, synthesizing current research to refine experimental methodologies and support grant proposals.

Biologist – Microbiology Assistant

Medical Laboratory I. Papageorgiou

12/2022 - 01/2024

Larisa, Greece

- Accurately prepared, calibrated, and standardized reagents, ensuring optimal conditions for precise and reproducible laboratory test results.
- Performed phlebotomy and 500+ blood samplings using aseptic techniques, sterilizing tools and maintaining contamination-free conditions.
- Operated the VITEK 2 System for microbial identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing, contributing to timely and accurate diagnostics.
- Ensured GMP compliance, calibrating VITEK 2 systems, documenting 200+ batch records, and validating reagents per ISO 15189 standards.
- Operated in a cleanroom environment, gowning and disinfecting surfaces to process microbial samples under controlled conditions.

Biologist – Microbiology Assistant

Medical Laboratory L.Garavela

03/2021 - 07/2022

Ioannina, Greece

- Conducted detailed microscopic and biochemical analyses, identifying microbial cultures and contributing to accurate disease diagnosis.
- Executed immunohistochemistry tests with precision, assisting in the detection of cellular and molecular markers for diagnostic purposes.
- Performed and interpreted antibiograms using the disk diffusion method, providing critical insights for effective antimicrobial treatments.
- Maintained GMP standards by preparing and calibrating reagents, documenting procedures, and ensuring quality control for 50+ microbial analyses monthly.

Research Assistant

Neurosurgical Institute of the University Hospital of Ioannina

10/2019 - 11/2020

Ioannina, Greece

- Executed aseptic techniques in a cleanroom environment, maintaining sterile conditions with laminar flow hoods to culture T98G and U87G cell lines for glioblastoma studies.
- Prepared and handled 20+ cell culture samples under strict cleanroom protocols, using autoclaved tools and disinfecting surfaces to ensure contamination-free experiments for risperidone testing.
- Conducted Trypan Blue and MTT assays in a controlled cleanroom setting, achieving 95% reliability in cell viability data by adhering to aseptic standards and meticulous lab procedures.

EDUCATION

MSc in Neuroscience (Neurorehabilitation)

University of Thessaly

10/2021 - 11/2023

GPA: 8,63/10

– Thesis: "Cognitive Impairments in Schizophrenia: Brain Reorganization and Neurorehabilitation".

Integrated MSc in Biological Applications and Technology

University of Ioannina

10/2015 - 02/2021

– Thesis: "Repurposing risperidone for glioblastoma treatment".

SKILLS

Blood sampling & phlebotomy

Cell staining

Biochemical & microscopic analysis

Antibiograms (disk diffusion)

Cell culture (T98G, U87G)

Microbial identification (VITEK 2)

Flow Cytometry (FACS)

Western Blotting

PCR

BIOPAC system

EEG setup, analysis & EMG, ECG diagnostics

Python

PERSONAL PROJECTS

Founder of "The NeuroProject VP" (10/2021 - Present)

The NeuroProject VP makes neuroscience accessible by translating complex research into engaging, digestible content. Through articles, web design, and social media, it fosters curiosity and promotes awareness of the brain, cognition, and neurorehabilitation. This initiative bridges the gap between science and everyday understanding, bringing cutting-edge research to a broader audience.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

Alzheimer's Disease and Effects of ABCA7 Polymorphisms: A Review

Author(s)

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LANGUAGES

Greek

Native or Bilingual Proficiency

English

Full Professional Proficiency

German

Limited Working Proficiency