

SIOPI MARIA, M.Sc. Clinical Chemistry



Personal information

Date of birth: 20/09/1984

Place of birth: Athens, Greece

Work address: Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, “Attikon” University General Hospital, 1 Rimini Str., Haidari, Athens 124 62, Greece

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Education

2014: Ph.D. Candidate, University of Athens Medical School, Department of Clinical-Laboratory Studies, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

Thesis title: Optimizing antifungal therapy against azole-resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus* strains using an *in vitro* PK/PD simulation model

2010: M.Sc. in Clinical Chemistry, University of Athens, Department of Chemistry, **grade:** 9.89/10 (Excellent)

Thesis title: Whole genome amplification and its application to genetic diagnosis

2008: B.Sc. in Chemistry, University of Athens, Department of Chemistry, **grade:** 7.20/10 (Very Good)

Thesis title: Effect of cis and all-trans NLE on platelet aggregation and *Tetrahymena pyriformis* growth

2001: Italian Lyceum of Athens, **grade:** 19.3/20 (Excellent)

Language skills

English: fluent (Certificate of Proficiency in English, University of Cambridge)

Italian: fluent (Diploma di Lingua Italiana, Instituto italiano di cultura in Atene)

Spanish: fluent (Diploma Nivel Intermedio, Instituto Cervantes)

Greek: native language

Computer skills

Advanced knowledge of Microsoft ® Windows environments, Office package (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook) and statistical programs GraphPad Prism and IBM SPSS for Windows.

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Laboratory experience

Analytical methods: HPLC, AAS

Microbiological techniques: bacteria/fungi cultivation, isolation, quantification and identification, susceptibility testing (microdilution, agar diffusion), synergy testing, optical/fluorescent microscope

Molecular techniques: DNA extraction, purification and quantification, single-cell isolation, mutation detection techniques, multiplex/nested/real time PCR, whole genome amplification, DNA sequencing, gel electrophoresis, capillary electrophoresis, immunoenzymatic detection (ELISA)

Animal models: mouse/rabbit blood sampling and infection

Working experience

04/2011-present: Research fellow at Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, “Attikon” University General Hospital

09/2009-09/2010: Laboratory assistant at “Choremio” Medical Genetics Research Laboratory, “St. Sophia's” Children's Hospital

09/2008-06/2010: Student assistant at University of Athens; practical training of the lectureship candidates (Departments of Chemistry, Biology and Pharmacy) in Analytical and Clinical Chemistry courses

03/2008-03/2009: Internship at Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory, “St. Sophia's” Children's Hospital

Participation in funded projects

- Metabolic fingerprinting as a diagnostic tool for invasive aspergillosis, Antifungal EUROPE ASPIRE 2012 Research Awards, Pfizer International Operations
- Antifungal synergy testing against spores and hyphae of mucorales and other rare hyphomycetes, Investigator-Initiated Research Grant, Pfizer International Operations

Awards

- Travel grant. 25th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Copenhagen, Denmark 2015
- Attendance grant: Bringing PK and PD in Fungal Infections into the Clinic, ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course. Nijmegen, the Netherlands 2014

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- “S. Papastamatis” Special Commendation: **M. Siopi**, A. Elefanti, R. Al-Saigh, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Determination of susceptibility breakpoints of voriconazole and *Aspergillus fumigatus* in an *in vitro* dynamic model. Athens Medical Society. 38th Panhellenic Medical Congress, Athens, Greece 2012
- Free registration grant. 22nd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, London, UK 2012
- “Hellenic Society of Medical Mycology” Commendation: A. Elefanti, **M. Siopi**, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Combination therapy of posaconazole and amphotericin B against experimental candidiasis. 4th Panhellenic Congress of the Hellenic Society of Medical Mycology, Athens, Greece 2011
- National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry Distinguished Abstract Award: C. Lazaropoulou, **M. Siopi**, I. Kanavaki, E. Goussetis, V. Ladis, A. Kattamis, I. Papassotiriou: Soluble endoglin and its interaction with adhesion molecules in patients with thalassemia intermedia. Chicago IL, USA 2009
- Scholarship of Greek Educational Foundation for excellence in undergraduate study, Greece 2005

Oral presentations

- **M. Siopi**, E. Neroutsos, K. Zisaki, M. Gkamaletsou, M. Pirounaki, P. Tsirigotis, N. Sipsas, E. Goussetis, L. Zerva, G. Valsami, J. Meletiadis. Development of a microbiological assay for determining voriconazole serum levels in patients receiving combination therapy with echinocandins (EA46). 7th Panhellenic Congress of Clinical Microbiology. Athens, Greece 2015
- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Evaluation of the “dip-effect” in *in vitro* antifungal susceptibility testing of *Candida* spp. against caspofungin using gradient concentration strips (EA45). 7th Panhellenic Congress of Clinical Microbiology. Athens, Greece 2015
- M. Drogari-Apiranthitou, **M. Siopi**, A. Bakossi, J. Meletiadis, G. Petrikos. Antifungal synergy testing against spores and hyphae of rare fungi (EA080). 4th Panhellenic Congress of the Society of Medical Studies, Athens, Greece 2014
- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. *In vitro* combination therapy against *Aspergillus fumigatus* (EA61). 8th Panhellenic Congress of Medical Biopathology. Athens, Greece 2014
- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Optimizing antifungal combination therapy of voriconazole+amphotericin B against *Aspergillus fumigatus* using a pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic (PK-PD) model (eP259). 24th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Barcelona, Spain 2014
- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, V. Papadouli, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Preliminary evaluation of MIC Test Strips for *in vitro* antifungal synergy testing against *Candida* species (EA12). 5th Panhellenic Congress of the Hellenic Society of Medical Mycology, Athens, Greece 2013

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- A. Bakossi, **M. Siopi**, J. Meletiadis, G. Petrikos, M. Drogari-Apiranthitou. *In vitro* antifungal synergy testing against spores and hyphae of rare hyphomycetes (EA11). 5th Panhellenic Congress of the Hellenic Society of Medical Mycology, Athens, Greece 2013
- **M. Siopi**, M. Gamaletsou, N. Sipsas, M. Pirounaki, M. Stamouli, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Determination of voriconazole levels in serum of hematological patients with a microbiological assay (EA48). 6th Panhellenic Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Nosocomial Infections. Athens, Greece 2013
- **M. Siopi**, A. Velegraki, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Evaluation of Sensititre YeastOne® for susceptibility testing of *Aspergillus* spp. against caspofungin (EA50). 6th Panhellenic Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Nosocomial Infections. Athens, Greece 2013
- **M. Siopi**, A. Elefanti, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Determination of azole resistance among *Aspergillus fumigatus* by studying *in vitro* pharmacodynamics of voriconazole with a novel pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic model (O307). 22nd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, London, UK 2012
- A. Elefanti, **M. Siopi**, P. E. Verweij, J. W. Mouton, J. Meletiadis. *In vitro* checkerboard data correlate with *in vivo* outcome of polyene+azole combination therapy against experimental candidiasis (O308). 22nd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, London, UK 2012
- A. Elefanti, **M. Siopi**, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Combination therapy of posaconazole and amphotericin B against experimental candidiasis. 4th Panhellenic Congress of the Hellenic Society of Medical Mycology, Athens, Greece 2011
- **M. Siopi**, A. Elefanti, M. Drogari-Apiranthitou, G. Petrikos, J. Meletiadis. Determination of serum antifungal levels of patients with microbiological assays. 4th Panhellenic Congress of the Hellenic Society of Medical Mycology, Athens, Greece 2011
- C. Lazaropoulou, **M. Siopi**, I. Kanavaki, E. Goussetis, V. Ladis, A. Kattamis, I. Papassotiriou. Soluble endoglin and its interaction with adhesion molecules in patients with thalassemia intermedia. 19th Panhellenic Hematology Congress, Athens, Greece 2008

Poster presentations

- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Therapeutic drug monitoring for antifungal combination therapy: Preclinical evidence. 25th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Copenhagen, Denmark 2015
- **M. Siopi**, E. Neroutsos, K. Zisaki, M. Gkamaletsou, M. Pirounaki, P. Tsirigotis, N. Sipsas, E. Goussetis, L. Zerva, G. Valsami, J. Meletiadis. A bioassay for determining voriconazole serum levels in patients receiving combination therapy with echinocandins. 25th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Copenhagen, Denmark 2015

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- **M. Siopi**, M. Tsala, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Evaluation of the “dip-effect” in *in vitro* antifungal susceptibility testing of *Candida* spp against echinocandins using gradient concentration strips. 25th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Copenhagen, Denmark 2015
- M. Drogari-Apiranthitou, **M. Siopi**, A. Bakossi, J. Meletiadis, G. Petrikos. Combination antifungal activity on conidia and hyphae of *Fusarium* species. 25th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Copenhagen, Denmark 2015
- A. Elefanti, **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Impact of dosing frequency on azole’s pharmacodynamics against *Aspergillus fumigatus* (M-456). 54th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, Washington, USA 2014
- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. *In vitro* evaluation of the efficacy of voriconazole-anidulafungin combination against azole-susceptible and -resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus* strains with a novel pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic (PK-PD) model (eP258). 24th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Barcelona, Spain 2014
- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Optimizing antifungal combination therapy of voriconazole+amphotericin B against *Aspergillus fumigatus* using a pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic (PK-PD) model (eP259). 24th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Barcelona, Spain 2014
- A. Bakossi, **M. Siopi**, J. Meletiadis, G. Petrikos, M. Drogari-Apiranthitou. *In vitro* antifungal synergy testing against spores and hyphae of *Mucorales* and *Fusarium* species (eP255). 24th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Barcelona, Spain 2014
- **M. Siopi**, A. Elefanti, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Synergistic interaction between voriconazole and amphotericin B against *Aspergillus fumigatus* in a pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) model simulating free drug concentrations achieved in human serum (P306). 6th Trends in Medical Mycology, Copenhagen, Denmark 2013
- A. Elefanti, **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Conventional Amphotericin B (AMB) activity against *Aspergillus* species in an *in vitro* pharmacokinetic (PK)/pharmacodynamic (PD) model (M-772). 53rd Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, Denver, USA 2013
- **M. Siopi**, A. Elefanti, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Evaluation of gradient concentration strips for *in vitro* combination testing of antifungal combinations against *Candida* spp. (P976). 23rd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Berlin, Germany 2013
- **M. Siopi**, A. Velegraki, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. Comparative evaluation of Sensititre YeastOne and CLSI M38-A2 reference method for echinocandin susceptibility testing of *Aspergillus* spp. (P982). 23rd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Berlin, Germany 2013
- A. Elefanti, J. Meletiadis, **M. Siopi**, L. Zerva, A. Velegraki. Agreement of MIC test strips[®], Etest[®] and the EUCAST broth microdilution method for *Candida* spp. antifungal susceptibility

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testing (P1583). 23rd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Berlin, Germany 2013

- **M. Siopi**, E. Mavridou, A. Elefanti, P. Verweij, J. W. Mouton, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. An *in vitro* pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic model predicts *in vivo* outcome of voriconazole treatment against *Aspergillus fumigatus* isolates with reduced azole susceptibility (A-1938). 52th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, San Francisco, USA 2012
- **M. Siopi**, A. Elefanti, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. *In vitro* evaluation of the efficacy of voriconazole (VOR) in combination with amphotericin B (AMB) against *Aspergillus fumigatus* (AFM) using a novel pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) model (A-1939). 52th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, San Francisco, USA 2012
- J. Meletiadis, A. Elefanti, **M. Siopi**, L. Zerva, A. Velegraki. Evaluation of gradient concentration strips for antifungal susceptibility testing against *Candida* species. 7th Panhellenic Congress of Medical Biopathology. Athens, Greece 2012
- **M. Siopi**, A. Elefanti, M. Drogari-Apiranthitou, G. Petrikos, J. Meletiadis. Development of a microbiological assay for the determination of voriconazole levels in serum samples. 12th Panhellenic Congress of the Hellenic Society for Infectious Diseases, Athens, Greece 2012
- J. Meletiadis, A. Elefanti, **M. Siopi**, P. E. Verweij, L. Zerva, J. W. Mouton. Bliss Independence (BI) Interaction Analysis of Combination Therapy with Posaconazole (POS) and Amphotericin B (AMB) against Experimental Candidiasis (M-1532). 51th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, Chicago, USA 2011

Publications

- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, S. Vourli, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. **2015**. Optimization of polyene-azole combination therapy against aspergillosis using an *in vitro* pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic model (**submitted**)
- **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. **2015**. Comparison of a gradient concentration strip method with the broth microdilution checkerboard method for antifungal combination testing against *Candida* spp. (**submitted**)
- G. Korres, J. Meletiadis, A. Delides, A. Antoniadou, G. Petrikos, L. Zerva, I. Yiotakis, **M. Siopi**, E. Kalogeropoulou, I. Georgantis, T. Nikolopoulos. **2015**. Fungal malignant otitis externa caused by *Alternaria chlamydospora*: first case report. *Journal of Medical Microbiology Case Reports* (**ahead of print**)
- **M. Siopi**, E. Mavridou, J.W. Mouton, P.E. Verweij, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. **2015**. Susceptibility breakpoints and target values for therapeutic drug monitoring of voriconazole and *Aspergillus fumigatus* in an *in vitro* pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic model-authors' response. *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*; 70: 634-635

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- **M. Siopi**, E. Mavridou, J.W. Mouton, P.E. Verweij, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. **2014**. Susceptibility breakpoints and target values for therapeutic drug monitoring of voriconazole and *Aspergillus fumigatus* in an *in vitro* pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic model. *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*; 69: 1611-1619
- R. Al-Saigh, **M. Siopi**, N. Siafakas, A. Velegraki, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. **2013**. Single-dose pharmacodynamics of amphotericin B against *Aspergillus* species in an *in vitro* pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic model. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*; 57: 3713-3718
- **M. Siopi**, A. Elefanti, R. Al-Saigh, N. Siafakas, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis. **2013**. Determination of susceptibility breakpoints of voriconazole and *Aspergillus fumigatus* in an *in vitro* dynamic model. *Archives of Hellenic Medicine*; 30: 35-45
- **M. Siopi**, M. Gamaletsou, N. Sipsas, M. Pirounaki, M. Stamouli, L. Zerva, J. Meletiadis **2013**. Determination of voriconazole levels in serum of hematological patients with a microbiological assay. *Bulletin of Hellenic Society for Microbiology*; 58: 33-42

Membership in scientific societies

- Association of Greek Chemists (AGC)
- Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry-Clinical Biochemistry (GSCC-CB)
- European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID)