Europass Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

First name(s) / Surname(s)	**Loredan Stefan / Niculescu**
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Fax(es)	+40.21.319.45.19 (office)
E-mail	Loredan.Niculescu@icbp.ro (office); Loredan.Niculescu@yahoo.com (personal)
Nationality	Romanian
Date of birth	August 23rd, 1973
Gender	Male

Desired employment / Occupational field

Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology „Nicolae Simionescu" of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania
Cellular and molecular biology (scientific research, education)

Position

Principal Investigator II, Lipidomics Depart.

Work experience

Dates	**March 2015 - present**
Occupation or position held	Principal Investigator II Member of the Scientific Council of ICBP "Nicolae Simionescu" (from 2012) Coordinator of Bioinformatics Lab (from 2013)
Main activities and responsibilities	Duty for the proper functioning of lab equipments Accumulation of knowledge on techniques used in research, development of experimental models, processing and analysis of samples obtained from experiments, data statistical analysis, writing the scientific manuscripts for article publication, proposal and coordinating the research projects.
Name and address of employer	Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu" of the Romanian Academy 8, B.P. Hasdeu Street, Sector 5, Bucuresti 050568, Romania [www.icbp.ro]
Type of business or sector	Academic scientific research (Cellular and molecular biology, Genetics)
Dates	**January 2007 – February 2015**
Occupation or position held	Principal Investigator III Member of the Scientific Council of ICBP-NS (from 2012) Coordinator for Bioinformatics Lab (from 2013)
Main activities and responsibilities	Accumulation of knowledge on techniques used in research, development of experimental models, processing and analysis of samples obtained from experiments, data statistical analysis, writing the scientific manuscripts for article publication, proposal and coordinating the research projects.
Name and address of employer	ICBP "Nicolae Simionescu"
Type of business or sector	Academic scientific research (Cellular and molecular biology, Genetics)
Dates	**November 2001 – December 2006**
Occupation or position held	Principal Investigator
Main activities and responsibilities	Accumulation of knowledge on techniques used in research, development of experimental models,

	processing and analysis of samples obtained from experiments, data statistical analysis, writing the scientific manuscripts for article publication, proposal and coordinating the research projects.
Name and address of employer	ICBP "Nicolae Simionescu"
Type of business or sector	Academic scientific research (Cellular and molecular biology, Genetics)
Dates	**February 1998 - November 2001**
Occupation or position held	Research Assistant
Main activities and responsibilities	Accumulation of knowledge on techniques used in research, development of experimental models, processing and analysis of samples obtained from experiments, data statistical analysis, writing the scientific manuscripts for article publication.
Name and address of employer	ICBP "Nicolae Simionescu"
Type of business or sector	Academic scientific research (Cellular and molecular biology)
Dates	**July 1997 - January 1998**
Occupation or position held	Trainee Research Assistant, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu" of the Romanian Academy
Main activities and responsibilities	Accumulation of knowledge on techniques used in research, development of experimental models, processing and analysis of samples obtained from experiments, data statistical analysis, writing the scientific manuscripts for article publication, proposal and coordinating the research projects.
Name and address of employer	ICBP "Nicolae Simionescu"
Type of business or sector	Academic scientific research (Cellular and molecular biology)

Education and training

Dates	**March 4th - 15th, 2019**
Title of qualification awarded	Visiting Scientist
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Bioinformatics analysis for miRNAs microarray data in hyperlipidemic hamsters
Name and type of organization providing education and training	Cardiovascular Research Unit, Luxembourg Institute of Health, Luxembourg (Prof. Yvan Devaux)
Dates	**June 26th – July 7th, 2017**
Title of qualification awarded	Visiting Scientist
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Novel methodologies to explore non-coding RNAs function by microarray assay and NGS RNAseq bioinformatics analysis for miRNAs and lncRNAs
Name and type of organization providing education and training	Cardiovascular Research Unit, Luxembourg Institute of Health, Luxembourg (Prof. Yvan Devaux)
Dates	**September 1st – 30th, 2014**
Title of qualification awarded	Visiting Scientist
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Advanced methodologies to explore and validate the biological role of specific microRNAs by using functional analysis and bioinformatics approach
Name and type of organization providing education and training	Center for Molecular Cardiology, CARIM School for Cardiovascular Diseases, Faculty of Health Medicine and Life Science, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands (Prof. Leon de Windt)
Dates	**August 26th – 30th, 2013**
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of attendance to COST Action BM0904 (HDLnet) Second Training School
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	HDL: Physiology, regulation and therapeutic potential
Name and type of organization providing education and training	EU RTD Framework Programme COST Action BM 0904 Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu" of the Romanian Academy
Dates	**December 2nd, 2011 - February 29th, 2013**
Title of qualification awarded	Postdoctoral fellow in the frame of the EU Structural Funds - Operational Sectorial Program – Development of Human Resources (OSP-DHR, *rom.* POS-DRU)
Principal subjects/occupational skills	Accumulation of knowledge on techniques used in research, development of experimental models,

covered	processing and analysis of samples obtained from experiments, data statistical analysis, writing the scientific manuscripts for article publication, proposal and coordinating the research projects.
Name and type of organization providing education and training	National Institute for Economic Research "C.C. Kiritescu" 13, 13th September Ave., West Building, Bucharest, Romania
Dates	**November 5th – 14th, 2012**
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of attendance
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Advanced School of Cellular and Molecular Approaches for the Progress of the Biomedical Research, Bucharest, Romania
Name and type of organization providing education and training	ICBP "Nicolae Simionescu" of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania
Dates	**October 1st – 31st, 2012**
Title of qualification awarded	Postdoc fellow OSP-DHR (*rom.* POS-DRU) Training Stage
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Training stage as *Visiting fellow* to gather knowledge in miRNA analysis techniques in biological samples
Name and type of organization providing education and training	Institute for Cardiovascular Prevention (*Institut für Prophylaxe und Epidemiologie der Kreislaufkrankheiten* - IPEK), University Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich, Germany (prof. Christian Weber)
Dates	**August 21st – 26th, 2011**
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of attendance to the Course "International Atherosclerosis Research School" (iARS)
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Basic research and clinical aspects of atherosclerosis: CVD and Atherosclerosis, Risk Factors and Assessment, Risk Reduction Strategies, Genetics, Lipid Metabolism, Good Scientific Practice, Presentation and Grant Writing Skills
Name and type of organization providing education and training	European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)
Dates	**May 3rd – 5th, 2010**
Title of qualification awarded	Diploma to certify the GE-Healthcare Training Course on "FPLC Akta design systems and Unicorn control software version 5.x" (Munich, Germany)
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Using the FPLC system and chromatography technique, Akta Purifier FPLC system control with Unicorn software
Name and type of organization providing education and training	GE Healthcare - LKB Vertriebs GmbH, Vienna, Austria
Dates	**February 2001 - June 2007**
Title of qualification awarded	Ph.D. in Natural Sciences, Biology, awarded on 12th March 2008
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Cell and molecular biology, Biology and pathology of the cardiovascular system, Biochemistry
Name and type of organization providing education and training	Romanian Academy, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu", Bucharest
Dates	**November 2003 – June 2007**
Title of qualification awarded	Ph.D. in Biological Sciences (Pharmacy) (co-tutelle), awarded on 21st April 2008
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Biochemistry - normal and pathological metabolism of lipoproteins in human and murines
Name and type of organization providing education and training	Ecole Doctorale "Biologie et Santé", University of Lille 2, Lille, France (co-tutelle)
Dates	**June 30th - July 12th, 2003**
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of attendance to the Course "9-eme Ecole d'été IX Francophone: *Pathologie et Biologie Moleculaire. Biotechnologies*"
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Molecular biology and pathology, biotechnologies
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	"Al. I. Cuza" University, Iassy, Romania

Dates	**October 10th-18th, 2002**
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of attendance to the Postgraduate Course "From cellular and molecular biology to the medicine of 21st century"
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Cellular Biology and Pathology, Molecular Medicine
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Romanian Academy, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu", Bucharest
Dates	**October 1998 - February 2000**
Title of qualification awarded	Master (postgraduate) in Biophysics
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Biophysics and bioenergetics of biological systems, biophysics and biochemistry of cell membranes, molecular biophysics
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Department of Physics, Department of Biophysics, University of Bucharest
Dates	**August 24th - 31st, 1997**
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of attendance the Course "FEBS Advanced Membrane Transport Processes and Signal Transduction"
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Membrane transport processes and signal transduction
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila", Bucharest
Dates	**October 1992 - June 1997**
Title of qualification awarded	B.Sc. in Physics - Biophysics
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	General Physics (3 years) - classical and quantum mechanics, electricity and electronics, optics, special mathematics applied in physics, solid physics; Specialization in Biophysics (2 years) - biophysics and bioenergetics of biological systems, biophysics and biochemistry of cell membranes, molecular biophysics, interaction of radiation with biological systems, environmental biophysics
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Department of Biophysics, Physics Faculty, University of Bucharest

Personal skills and competences

Mother tongue(s): **Romanian**

Other language(s)

Self-assessment	Understanding				Speaking				Writing	
European level (*)	Listening		Reading		Spoken interaction		Spoken production			
English	C1	Proficient user	C1	Proficient user	B2	Independent user	B2	Independent user	C1	Proficient user
French	B1	Independent user	B1	Independent user	A2	Basic user	A2	Basic user	A2	Basic user

(*) Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Social skills and competences

- Ability to work in a team obtained following the activity in the Lipidomics Department from ICBP-NS, in collaboration with experienced colleagues, masters or Ph.D. students;

- Ability to coordinate the implementation of tasks to achieve an objective, obtained from the coordination of research projects both as project manager and collaborator;

- Ability to adapt to multicultural communication, obtained from 3 six-month stages of preparation the joint Romania-France Ph.D. program in Institute Pasteur of Lille, France and 2 other one-month stages in Munich (Germany), Maastricht (The Netherlands) and Luxembourg, and as a result of attendance the international scientific meetings and courses.

Organizational skills and competences

• **Management of the research activity**: team member of Lipidomics Department renewed through the European Community Structural Funds, POS-CCE (2008-2012).

• **Managerial Competences**

• Member of the Scientific Council of ICBP-NS (from 2012);

• Coordinator for Bioinformatics Lab of ICBP-NS (from 2013);

• Expert evaluator for Ministry of Education and Research - Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (CNCS - UEFISCDI, from 2013);

• Member of the Animal Welfare Committee of ICBP-NS (from 2015);

• Coordination of Public Acquisitions dept., assigned by the Scientific Council (from 2012);

• Technical - Scientific Manager in CARDIOPRO Project ID:143 EU Structural Founds - Sectorial Operational Program - Increase of Economic Competitiveness, ERDF co-financed investment in RTDI for Competitiveness (2011-2012);

• Active member of the organizing team of 8 editions of the Postgraduate Course "Molecular and Cell Biology to the Medicine of 21st Century" (2000 - 2008), ICBP "N. Simionescu", organized under the aegis of the Romanian Academy, executive manager Anca Sima, Assoc. member of the Romanian Academy;

• Active member of the organizing team of the International Symposium "Recent Advances in Cardio-Diabetology", organized by ICBP "N. Simionescu", 8 September 2006;

• Active member of the organizing team of the International Symposium "Translational research in vascular medicine", organized by ICBP "N. Simionescu", 27-30 March 2008;

• Contact person in the organizing team of Exploratory Workshop "*From the fundamental research findings to therapeutic applications*" in the framework of "*Diaspora in Romanian Scientific Research Conference*", organized by ICBP "N. Simionescu", Bucharest, 17-18 September 2008, funded by a grant CNCSIS - Human Resources, project manager Acad. Maya Simionescu.

• **Main National Collaborations**

2012-2016 Prof. dr. Doina R. Dimulescu, University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Carol Davila" and Cardiology Clinic of University Emergency Hospital Elias (Partnerships grant BIOMARCAD), resulting 3 published articles;

2007-2010 Prof. dr. Denisa Margină, University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Carol Davila" and Dr. Maria Vladică, National Institute for Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases „ N. Paulescu" (Partnerships grant LIPIDERI), resulting 2 published articles;

2006-2008 Dr. Olga Ianăş, National Endocrinology Institute „C.I. Parhon" (CEEX GENAGE grant), resulting 2 published articles.

• **Main International Collaborations**

2018-2022 COST Action CA17129 "Catalysing transcriptomics research in cardiovascular disease" (CardioRNA), substitute member in Management Committee

2008 - 2011 Dr. Marius R. Robciuc, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki, Finland, resulting 1 published article (Niculescu LS, et al., A.V. Sima, Biochem Biophys Res Commun, 2011);

2003 - 2007 Prof. Jean-Charles Fruchart and Dr. Jamila Fruchart-Najib, Institute Pasteur din Lille and Univ. Lille 2, Lille, France, resulting 2 published articles (Fruchart-Najib et al., Biochem Biophys Res Commun, 2004; Niculescu et al., Clin Chem Lab Med, 2007).

Coordinated Grants

• **Project Manager** of 5 grants and team member in other 18 grants (1999-present), financed by Romanian Academy and Ministry of Education and Research (UEFISCDI);

• Team member in 6 international grants (NIH, USA, NATO, EU).

International Grants *as Team Member:*

• **2014-2015** POS-CCE ID-1877/SMIS-CSNR 49154 *Structuration of a new compartment for cellular sorting and tissue cryo-preservation for research and therapeutic purposes (SORTIS)*, 8 million Lei (aprox. 1.8 million Euro) - Technical - Scientific Advisor *for the molecular biology platform;*

• **2008-2012** POS-CCE 143/SMIS CSNR 2667 *Extension and modernization of the research infrastructure in order to increase competitiveness in the field of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and obesity (CARDIPPRO)*, 53.999.733 Lei (aprox. 12 million Euro) - *Technical - Scientific Manager;*

• **2008-2011** COST Action BM0602 (WG3 and WG 4) *Adipose Tissue: A Key Target for Prevention of the Metabolic Syndrome*, European Community Funds;

• **2005-2007** Grant FP6, SSA-EC 16873 *Strengthening the European Research Area by Reinforcement of Romanian Research Competency in Genomics and Proteomics of Major Global Risk*

Diseases: Atherosclerosis, Diabetes and its Complications (SERA), 950.000 Euro;

• **2002- 2004** NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMME, *Role of Apo E in Cholesterol and Triglycerides Homeostasis*, 3.000 Euro;

• **2001-2004** Grant FP5 ICA1-CT-2000-70020, Centre of Excellence of the European Community, *Function and dysfunction of blood vessels: transcytosis in normal/ pathological states, alterations in atherosclerosis and diabetes; their therapeutic control*, 100.000 Euro.

***National Grants** as Project Manager*

2015-2017 Young Teams Research Grant - Ministry of Education and Research, *Assessment of molecular strategies to improve atherogenic dyslipidemia by modulating the microRNAs expression* (THERAMIR), 550.000 lei (equiv. 125.000 EUR).

2007-2008 Young Researcher Grant - Romanian Academy, *Evaluation of genetic risk factors for metabolic syndrome: the study of gene polymorphism for apolipoprotein C-III* (equiv. 5.000 EUR)

2001-2002 Young Researcher Grant - Romanian Academy, *The modifications induced in atherosclerosis by oxidative stress on cell membranes; the effects of some anti-atherogenic drugs* (equiv. 1.650 EUR).

2001-2002 Young Researcher Grant - Ministry of Education and Research, *In vitro study on effects of oxidative stress on human erythrocytes in normal and hypercholesterolemic conditions; the protective role of statins and calcium channel blockers* (equiv. 4.200 EUR).

2000-2001 Young Researcher Grant - Ministry of Education and Research, *Study of the variation of antioxidant capacity in sera isolated from coronary patients; the effect of calcium channel blockers* (equiv. 2.500 EUR).

***National Grants** as Team Member (selected)*

• **2012-2016** PARTNERSHIP PNCDI-2 Grant, partner: Cardiology Clinic of University Emergency Hospital Elias, *New predictive biomarkers for the evolution of the stable and unstable coronary artery disease identified by lipidomic, proteomic and molecular biology technologies* (450,000 Euro);

• **2008-2011** IDEI PNCDI-2 Grant, *Molecular strategies for the reversal of atherosclerotic process by the modulation of secretion and cellular signalling pathways and intracellular assembly of anti-atherogenic lipoprotein*s (120,000 Euro);

• **2007-2010** PARTNERSHIP PNCDI-2 Grant, partners: University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Carol Davila" and National Institute for Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases „N. Paulescu", *The study of the cellular, molecular and genetic mechanisms by which dyslipidemia induces insulin resistance; identification of probiotic active compounds and treatment methods* (LIPIDERI, 300,000 Euro);

• **2005-2007** IDEI PNCDI Grant, *The role of transcription factors PPARα and PPARγ in the regulation of genes for atherogenic lipoprotein receptors on endothelial and smooth muscle cells* (55,000 Euro);

• **2004-2006** BIOTECH PNCDI Grant, *The employment of APOA5 and APOE gene polymorphisms as molecular markers in the study of evaluation of genetic risk factors of subjects with obesity and its associated disorders (diabetes, hypertension and atherosclerosis)* (APOGEN, 30,000 Euro);

• **2003-2005** VIASAN PNCDI Grant, partners: National Institute for Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases „N. Paulescu" and Anthropology Institute „Fr. Rainer", *The impact of obesity in generating diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in urban communities from Romania - a populational, physio-pathologic and genetic study* (OBEDIAGEN, 60,000 Euro),• **2001-2003** VIASAN PNCDI Grant *The role of endothelium in atheroma formation: the comparative study on protective effect of various statins on cells from atherosclerotic plaque* (40,000 Euro).

Other

• ***Reviewer for ISI-ranked journals*:** Atherosclerosis (Elsevier), Metabolism (Elsevier), Scientific Reports (Nature Group), Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (Springer Publishing), Journal of the American Geriatrics Society (Wiley-Blackwell), Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (de Gruyter), Clinical Endocrinology (Wiley-Blackwell), Molecular Biology Reports (Springer Publishing), PlosOne (Public Library of Science), Central European Journal of Biology (Springer), Cardiovascular Diabetology (BioMed Central);

• ***Member in the editorial staff:*** Book "Simionescu Institute at 30 years - Impossible does not exist - Memento Nicolae Simionescu", editors: Ileana Manduteanu, **Loredan S. Niculescu**, Maya Simionescu, printed in Romania, "*Semne Artemis*" Publishing House, under the aegis of ICBP "N. Simionescu" and National Foundation for Science and Art, ISBN 978-973-1744-75-9.

Technical skills and competences

• Preclinical studies on patients with cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and metabolic syndrome; molecular biology (genotyping, mRNA and miRNA expression), circulating biomarkers (miRNAs); experimental animal models; cell culture; techniques of immunology, electrophoresis and

chromatography.

• ***Technical expertise*:** separation of **lipoproteins** (ultracentrifugation, gel permeation FPLC); lipid peroxides assays (TBARS, TRAP assays); **cell cultures** techniques (human circulating CD14+ monocytes-derived macrophages, THP-1 monocytoid line); **flow cytometry** analysis of circulating endothelial progenitor cells (EPC) and monocytes; **immunology** techniques (ELISA, Western blot); electrophoretic techniques (agarose/PAGE for proteins and nucleic acids); chromatographic techniques (FPLC, UHPLC); **molecular biology** techniques (miRNA/RNA assays in blood/cells/tissues by PCR array, **microarray** thecnique, real-time PCR, Northern blot, *in situ* hybridization, cDNA/gDNA assay by SyBr Green/TaqMan; genotyping - PCR-RFLP technique); **cloning**: 3'UTR insertion into luciferase reporter vectors; experimental **animal models** (diet-induced hyperlipidemic/ hyperglycemic hamsters and transgenic/knockout mice, genotyping of genetically modified animals); **bioinformatics** (miRNA microarray analysis), **biostatistics** and advanced modelling analysis (linear and logistic regression models).

Computer skills and competences

• Advanced knowledge of control and data processing software for FPLC (Unicorn 5.2) and UHPLC (ChemStation) chromatographic systems, real-time PCR systems (StepOnePlus, ViiA7);

• Advanced knowledge of statistical analysis software SPSS (v.21) and GraphPad 5; medium knowledge of bioinformatics R-studio software (limma package); image analysis (Adobe Photoshop, Nikon NIS Elements);

• Medium knowledge of bioinformatics analysis (R-studio).

Artistic skills and competences

- Landscape and culinary photography (Nikon D5500 DSLR camera);
- Practiced sports: basketball, cycling, trekking, swimming, snorkeling;

Other skills and competences

• **Project manager** of 5 national grants; team member in other 4 international and 18 national grants (1999-present)

• **Published papers** in journals indexed in *Web of Science* **21** (14 as **main author** and 11 in **Q1**)

• **Total number of citations**: 362 (according to Scopus, May 2019), 1 article with over 150 citations

• **Hirsch index**: **9**

• **Researcher unique identifiers**: orcid.org/0000-0002-1394-9085

Fellowships

• **2019** *STSM fellowship* from COST Action CA17129 "Catalysing transcriptomics research in cardiovascular disease" (CardioRNA) to perform a stage in Cardiovascular Research Unit, Luxembourg Institut of Health (prof. Yvan Devaux) between 04-15.03.2019

• **2003-2006** *Ph.D. Fellowship* from Institute for Pharmaceutical Chemistry of Lille and *Ecole Doctorale "Biologie et Santé",* Université Lille 2, Lille, France for the 18-month research stages for French Ph.D. program jointly with Romanian Academy Ph.D. program in 3 x 6-month stages (Nov-Apr) in Atherosclerosis Laboratory INSERM U545 from Institute Pasteur of Lille and University Lille 2

• **2012** *Postdoc fellowship* from EU OSP-DHR (POS-DRU) program – for a research stage of one month in the laboratory lead by Prof. Dr. Christian Weber, Institute for Cardiovascular Prevention (Institut für Prophylaxe und Epidemiologie der Kreislaufkrankheiten) from the University Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) München, between 01-31.10.2012

Awards:

• **2017 Romanian Society for Cell Biology** Award "Prof. dr. *Constantin Velican*" for the outstanding research on pathology of cardiovascular diseases, Iasi, 8 June 2017.

• **2016 Romanian Cardiology Society** Award for Excellence in Research for the study "*Hyperglycemia is associated with increased circulating microRNAs levels in acute coronary syndrome patients*' sera and determines the upregulation of microRNA production in human macrophages", **Niculescu L.S**. et al., The 55th Romanian Congress of Cardiology, Sinaia, 22-23 Sept. 2016.

• **2015 Romanian Academy Award** "Nicolae Simionescu" for outstanding publications in the field of molecular biology, received on 15 December 2017.

• **2013 Best Poster** Award (3rd Place) at 5th International Congress and 31st Annual Scientific Session of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology, Timisoara, 5-9 June 2013 for the poster communication "*Analysis of micro-RNA biomarkers in serum of subjects with hyperlipidemia and/or hyperglycemia*", authors Simionescu N., **Niculescu L.S.**, Sanda G.M., Margina D., Sima A.V.

• **2012 „Herbert Berler" Award** for **Excellence in Research** for the study „*Molecular mechanism of HDL secretion from lipid-loaded macrophages*", **Niculescu L.S.**, Sanda G.M., Sima A.V., communicated at The 7th International Symposium „Acad. Nicolae Cajal", Bucharest, 2012.

• **2008 Special Award** - for the contribution to integration in European Research Area, with excellent

	publications and successful grant application - European Community FP6 Specific Support Action (SSA) SERA 16873/2005.
Driving license	Driving license category B, from 1998
Additional information	- Member of European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) from 2009 - Member of Romanian Society of Cell Biology (SRBC) from 1997 - Member of Romanian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (ARSAL) from 2016
Annexes	List of published papers and communications (selected)

CV ANNEX - LIST OF PUBLISHED PAPERS AND COMMUNICATIONS (selected)

PUBLISHED PAPERS

Barbălată T., M. Deleanu, M.G. Cărnuță, **L.S. Niculescu**, M. Răileanu, A.V. Sima, C.S. Stancu. Hyperlipidemia Determines Dysfunctional HDL Production and Impedes Cholesterol Efflux in the Small Intestine: Alleviation by Ginger Extract. *Mol. Nutr. Food Res*. e1900029, **2019**; doi: 10.1002/mnfr.201900029 (IF 4.653, **Q1**).

Niculescu L.S., M.D. Dulceanu, C.S. Stancu, M.G. Cărnuță, T. Barbălată, A.V. Sima. Probiotics administration or the high-fat diet arrest modulates microRNAs levels in hyperlipidemic hamsters. *Journal Functional Foods* 56: 295–302, **2019**; doi: 10.1016/j.jff.2019.03.036 (IF 3.197, **Q1**).

Niculescu L.S., N. Simionescu, E.V. Fuior, C.S. Stancu, M.G. Cărnuță, M.D. Dulceanu, M. Răileanu, E. Drăgan, A.V. Sima. Inhibition of miR-486 and miR-92a decreases liver and plasma cholesterol levels by modulating lipid-related genes in hyperlipidemic hamsters. *Molec Biol Rep* 45(4):497-509, **2018**; doi: 10.1007/s11033-018-4186-8 (IF 2.107).

Alexandru N., E. Andrei, **L.S. Niculescu**, E. Drăgan, V. Ristoiu, A. Georgescu. Microparticles of healthy origins improve endothelial progenitor cell dysfunction via microRNA transfer in an atherosclerotic hamster model. *Acta Physiol (Oxf)*. 221(4): 230-249, **2017**; doi: 10.1111/apha.12896 (IF 4.867, **Q1**).

Cărnuță M.G., C.S Stancu, L. Toma, G.M. Sanda, **L.S. Niculescu**, M. Deleanu, A.C. Popescu, M.R Popescu., A. Vlad, D.R. Dimulescu, M. Simionescu, A.V. Sima. Dysfunctional high-density lipoproteins have distinct composition, diminished anti-inflammatory potential and discriminate acute coronary syndrome from stable coronary artery disease patients. *Scientific Rep.* 7(1): 7295, **2017;** doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-07821-5 (IF 4.26, **Q1**).

Toma L., G.M. Sanda, **L. Niculescu**, M. Deleanu., C.S. Stancu, A.V. Sima. Caffeic acid attenuates the inflammatory stress induced by glycated LDL in human endothelial cells by mechanisms involving inhibition of AGE-receptor, oxidative and endoplasmic reticulum stress. *Biofactors* **43**(5):685-697, **2017;** doi: 10.1002/biof.1373 (IF 3.23, **Q1**).

Simionescu N., **L.S. Niculescu**, G.M. Sanda, M.G. Cărnuță, C.S. Stancu, A.C. Popescu, M.R. Popescu, A. Vlad, D.R. Dimulescu, M. Simionescu, A.V. Sima. Hyperglycemia Determines Increased Specific MicroRNAs Levels in Sera and HDL of Acute Coronary Syndrome Patients and Stimulates MicroRNAs Production in Human Macrophages. *PLoS ONE* 11(8): e0161201, **2016**; doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0161201 (IF 3.54, **Q1**).

Niculescu L.S., N. Simionescu, G.M. Sanda, M.G. Cărnuță, C.S. Stancu, A.C. Popescu, M.R. Popescu, A. Vlad, D.R. Dimulescu, M. Simionescu, A.V. Sima. MiR-486 and miR-92a identified in circulating HDL discriminate between stable and vulnerable coronary artery disease patients. *PLoS One.* 10(10): e0140958, **2015;** doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0140958 (IF 3.54, **Q1**).

Stancu, C.S., M.G. Cărnuță, G.M. Sanda, L. Toma, M. Deleanu, **L.S. Niculescu**, S. Sasson, M. Simionescu, A.V Sima. Hyperlipidemia-induced hepatic and small intestine ER stress and decreased paraoxonase 1 expression and activity is associated with HDL dysfunction in Syrian hamsters. *Mol Nutr Food Res.* 59(11): 2293-302, **2015;** doi: 10.1002/mnfr.201500422 (IF 4.259, **Q1**).

Simionescu N., **L.S. Niculescu**, G.M. Sanda, D. Margină, A.V. Sima. Serum microRNA profiling of hyperlipidemic and/or hyperglycemic patients reveals specifically increased levels of miR-122, miR-125a, miR-486 and miR-92a, *Annals Rom. Soc. Cell Biol.*, 19(1), 55-66, **2014**.

Simionescu N., **L.S. Niculescu**, G.M. Sanda, D. Margină, A.V. Sima. Analysis of circulating microRNAs that are specifically increased in hyperlipidemic and/or hyperglycemic sera. *Molec. Biol. Rep.* 41(9), 5765-5773, **2014**.

Niculescu L.S., G.M. Sanda, N. Simionescu, A.V. Sima. Bilberries exert an anti-atherosclerotic effect in lipid-loaded macrophages. *Centr Eur J Biol* **9**(3): 268-276, **2014**.

Niculescu L.S., G.M. Sanda, A.V. Sima. HDL inhibit endoplasmic reticulum stress by stimulating apoE and CETP secretion from lipid-loaded macrophages. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* **434**(1): 173-178, **2013**.

Niculescu L.S., L. Toma, O. Ianăș, A.V. Sima. Gene polymorphisms of CETP and apolipoprotein E in elderly subjects with cognitive impairment. *Centr Eur J Biol* **7**(3): 419-430, **2012**.

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