

Personal Information

Name: Zorița Maria (Sconța) Diaconeasa
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E-mail: zorita.sconta@usamvcluj.ro, **Telephone:** +40 0751 033 871
Gender: Female, **Date of Birth:** 02.09.1984
Title: PhD, *Assistant Professor*
Research area: Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Health& Nutrition



Education

- **May 2014 – Oct 2015:** Postdoctoral fellowship - Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Program POSDRU/159/1.5/S/132765
- **2012 – 2013:** PhD fellowship, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Department Food Science and Technology directed by Prof Monica Giusti, Ohio State University, USA
- **Oct 2009 – Oct 2012:** PhD, Doctor of Philosophy in Biotechnology-University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, <http://www.usamvcluj.ro/files/teze/en/2012/sconta.pdf>
- **Oct 2008 – June 2010:** Master Degree-Applied Biosciences-Controlled Environmental Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- **2004-2007:** Pedagogical program, UASVM, Cluj-Napoca
- **Oct 2003 – June 2008:** Bachelor Degree, Faculty of Horticulture, UASVM, Cluj-Napoca

Work (professional) experience

- **Feb 2016 – on:** Assistant Professor, **Discipline: Biochemistry, Faculty of Food Science and Technology,** University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca
- **Jan 2013 – on:** Founder & Product development manager at SC AroBioPharm SRL, Cluj Napoca (nutraceutical and cosmetics)
- **Jan 2012 – April 2014:** Researcher - University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca

Young Research Fellowships

- **July-August 2018-** Internship- Liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry, **The James Hutton Institute, Scotland**
- **July 2018:** Summer School in Applied Human Nutrition, **Cambridge University, UK**
- **Jan-March 2018:** Internship-**University of Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Centre, USA, Chemoprevention & Biomarkers in melanoma**
- **Feb 2017:** Wolfson Advanced Microscopy course-**Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford, UK**
- **Aug -Sep 2012:** Training Liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry/HPLC-MS Resteck, **New Albany, New York, USA**
- **Jun 2015:** Training Episkin Academy - Replacement methods based on 3D human skin models (OECD Test guideline 439) - Skin Irritation on skin ethic RHE model, **Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

- **Feb – Sept 2012:** Visiting Scholar - FST, Department of Food Science and Technology **Ohio State University, USA**
- **May 2008 – Oct 2008:** Scholarship - **Evesham Vale Grovers Ltd. UK**

Technical skills and competences

- **Phytochemistry:** solid phase extractions of plant metabolites (anthocyanins, carotenoids)
- **Analytic Biochemistry:** analysis of phytochemical compounds using liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) and time-of-flight mass spectrometric (TOF/MS) techniques) and evaluation of their antioxidant activity (DPPH, TEAC, FRAP, ORAC, HPS Folin Ciocâlteu methods)
- **Molecular Biology:** *In vitro* evaluation of cellular metabolism, (viability, and cytotoxicity tests) cell culture manipulation, microscopy, electrophoresis (Western blotting), immunocytochemistry staining, and the effect of polyphenols at cellular and molecular level
- **In vitro testing** of nanomaterials (ceria, gold, silver)

Scientific activity

Member in editorial boards or reviewer of the following journals:

- Journal of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics; Food Chemistry; Journal of Advanced Nutrition and Human Metabolism; Molecules; Antioxidants; Medicina; Biomolecules, Agronomy; BMC Chemistry; OncoTargets and Therapy, Phytochemistry Letters, Frontiers

Didactic activities

- 16 Bachelor theses (2 ongoing), 2 MSc thesis, 1 PhD thesis (on going)

Memberships

- Member of International Academy of Nutrition educators
- Member of Romanian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Member of American Chemical Society
- Member of International Liposome Society
- Member of Biochemical Society
- Member of Slow Food Transylvania

Public research grants

Project manager

- **Nov 2020 – prezent: PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-0960**, “Absorbția și bioaccesibilitatea *in vitro* a antocianilor și a metabolizilor acestora”
- **Oct 2015 – Dec 2017: PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-0944**, 16/01.10.2015, “Anthocyanins liposomes systems and their involvement on molecular signaling of skin diseases”
- **Oct 2015 – 2018: PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2016-1002**, “Anthocyanins pure extracts and their involvement in biological studies: potential bioactive ingredients in nutraceuticals”

Member

- **Nov 2020– prezent: PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-0130**, “Hidrogeluri inovatoare pe bază de micle polimerice ca sisteme de cedare pentru uleiul esențial de oregano: o abordare farmaceutică avansată pentru gestionarea papiloamelor cutanate”

- **July 2018-2010:** PN-III-P1-1.1.-TE-2016-0973, “*New integrated approach for food waste valorization*”
- **July 2018-2010:** PN-III-P1-1.1-TE2016-1907, “*Capsule inteligente de tip polielectrolit multistrat pentru eliberare controlata de molecule bioactive*”
- **July 2018-2010:** PN-III-P1-1.2-PCCDI-2017-0056, *Functional collaboration model between public research organizations and the private sector for high-level scientific and technological services in the bio economy field*”
- **Oct 2015 – Dec 2017:** PN-II-RU-TE2014-4-2211, 39/01.10.2015, „*Microencapsulated plasmonic nanoparticles for controlled release of bioactive molecules*”
- **Oct 2015 – Dec 2017:** PN-II-RU-TE- 2014-4-1135, *Microsystems for targeted-delivery and controlled-release as alternative therapy of retina diseases – a novel perspective*”
- **Oct 2015 – Dec 2017:** PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-1597, “*Composite biomaterials for wound healing based on the nanoparticles and polymeric hydrogel*”
- **April 2014 – Oct 2015:** postdoctoral researcher - University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, POSDRU/159/1.5/S/132765
- **Ian 2012 – April 2014:** researcher - University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Biochemistry Department, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- **Apr 2010 – Nov 2013:** research member, Program TE-168/2010-109 “Testing the antioxidant, antiproliferative and proapoptotic properties of blueberry polyphenol extract on tumoral cell culture”
- **Sep 2009 – Ian 2012:** Doctoral fellowship - Faculty of Food Science and Technology, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, program POSDRU/89/1.5/S/60746

Organizing committee member

- 2nd Annual Meeting of the FA1006-COST Action "*Plant natural Products: From science to bioproducts*", Cluj-Napoca (Romania), September 2012
- 1st Workshop on Alternative Methods, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, June 2015
- 8th Congress - Pigments in Food, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, July 2016

Skills and competences

- Mother language: Romanian
- Languages: English (proficiency), French (good)

Other skills and competences

- Flexibility, Dedication, Adaptability: till now I took part in multiple researches involving multiple interdisciplinary fields. I had to learn each of them and combine interdisciplinary knowledge in order to obtain best results.
- Origin 7, Prism 5, EndNote, BioChemDraw, Gen5 Biotek Synergy Software, Shimadzu LC Solution Software, AxionVision Microscope Zeiss Software, Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office, Adobe Illustrator

Additional information

- Prof. Carmen Socaciu, USAMV Cluj-Napoca, socaciucarmen@gmail.com
- Associate Professor Monica Maria Giusti, Ohio State University, Columbus, USA, giusti.6@osu

Google scholar profile: <https://scholar.google.com>

Brainmap: <https://www.brainmap.ro/public-profile-82831720>

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5325-3859>

Hirsh index according to Web of Science:12 Citations: 654 (excluding self citations, 61 ISI papers)

Cluj-Napoca
14.01.2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. I. Ionescu', written over a faint rectangular stamp.