CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal details:

Name, Surname: RODICA BĂLAȘA

Academic Title: University professor

Department: Neurology, ME2

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Areas of interest (maximum 5 domains):

Multiple Sclerosis – Therapeutic optimization, management, and identification of opportunities for applying personalized medicine to individually select disease modifying therapies and immune reconstitution therapies for multiple sclerosis patients.

Neuroimmunology – Identification and evaluation of immunopathogenic processes in major neurological disorders and their applicability in clinical medicine.

Cerebrovascular Diseases – Implementation and optimization of therapeutic and diagnostic protocols for cerebrovascular diseases in Romania.

Neurodegenerative Diseases – Diagnosis and treatment of neurodegenerative disorders.

Research activity:

1. Research projects

I. International research grants

– Project Manager

I.1. Experimental model of peripheral mononuclear cells serum biomarkers for cladribine treatment response in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis: a step toward personalized treatment, Merck, 100.000 EUR, Nr. Contract 318/2018 durata 2018-2020.

I.2. Assessment of IL-17A, IL-10 and TGF-β serum titres in RRMS patients treated with Avonex, possible biomarkers for treatment response and the impact on them of treatment with Avonex, Număr de contract: 1442 / 2014, durata: 2014-2015.

– Team management PNRR

I.3. Intramural cells as biomarkers and therapeutic targets for Alzheimer's disease, PNRR, Program - Dezvoltarea unui program pentru atragerea resurselor umane înalt specializate din străinătate în activități de cercetare, dezvoltare și inovare, 7.000.000.000 RON, Nr. Contract CF63/14.11.2022, perioada 01.07.2023 - 30.06.2026.

II. National research grants

– Project mentor

II.4. Role of microbiota in clinical evolution of multiple sclerosis patients treated with interferon-beta: a comprehensive approach, director de proiect Bărcuțean Laura Iulia, UEFSCDI PD 80/2022, 249.600 RON, perioada 31.03.2022 – 31.04.2024

– Project manager

II.5. The role of cytokines in the imunopathogenesis of multiple sclerosis/autoimmune experimental encephalomyelitis and the evaluation of the immunomodulatory therapy using biomarkers, Competiția pentru granturi de cercetare colective, sesiunea 2014, UMF Târgu Mureș, Nr. de contract: 18/2015, suma 90.000 RON, perioada 2014-2016.

II.6. The role of cytokines in the heterogenous response of patients with multiple sclerosis to the imunomodulatory therapy, Competiția pentru granturi științifice de cercetare colective cu finanțare exclusivă prin fonduri private, sesiunea 2014, UMF Târgu Mureș, Nr. de contract: 16171/2014, suma 23.000 RON, perioda 2014-2015.

II.7. Regional controlled hypothermia in therapeutical purposes, CNCSIS cod 1346/2006, suma 65.000 RON, perioada 2006-2008.

2. Articles published in extenso

1. **Balasa R,** Barcutean L, Mosora O, Manu D. Reviewing the Significance of Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption in Multiple Sclerosis Pathology and Treatment. Int J Mol Sci. 2021 Aug 4;22(16):8370. 76 citations. **IF: 6.20.**
2. **Balasa R,** Barcutean L, Balasa A, Motataianu A, Roman-Filip C, Manu D. The action of TH17 cells on blood brain barrier in multiple sclerosis and experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis. Hum Immunol. 2020 May;81(5):237-243. 61 citations. **IF: 2.85.**
3. **Bălașa R,** Bajkó Z, Huțanu A. Serum levels of IL-17A in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis treated with interferon-β. Mult Scler J.2013;19:885-890, ISSN 1352-4585, Citations: 35. **IF: 4.86.**
4. **Balasa R**, Maier S, Hutanu A, Voidazan S, Andone S, Oiaga M, Manu D. Cytokine Secretion Dynamics of Isolated PBMC after Cladribine Exposure in RRMS Patients. Int J Mol Sci. 2022 Sep 6;23(18):10262. Citations: 1. **IF: 5.6.**
5. Barcutean L, Farczadi L, Manescu IB, Imre S, Maier S, **Balasa R.** Short and Medium Chain Fatty Acids in a Cohort of Naïve Multiple Sclerosis Patients: Pre- and Post-Interferon Beta Treatment Assessment. Biologics. 2024 Nov 15;18:349-361. **IF: 5.3.**