

Junior Award Session



Krasimira Rusinova-Ilieva

**Medical Faculty, Medical
University - Sofia**

PhD student at the Medical University of Sofia, Department of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry, working on “Multi-omics Studies of Solid Tumors.” Holds Master’s degree in Microelectronics and Information Technologies at the Faculty of Physics at Sofia University and worked as a chemist and atomic force microscope (AFM) operator (Bruker Dimension Icon) at the Institute of Polymers, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Krasimira has completed several courses in AI applications incl. Business Model Digital Transformation Training, Elements of AI at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and the University of Helsinki. In 2025, she completed the “7.03.1x: Genetics: The Fundamentals” course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), followed by a lecture seminar at the Institute of Molecular Biology, BAS on “From Zero to One: Introduction to Programming with Python” – focused on image analysis and DNA sequence comparison.



Jong Hun Park

**Faculty of Biology,
Sofia University “St. Kliment
Ohridski”**

PhD Student at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Biology, Chair of Biochemistry, Laboratory of Biomembranes

2024 – ongoing

MSc in Biochemistry and Molecular immunology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” - 2023

Scientific interests and area of research are cell and molecular biology of disease, ophthalmology - adjacent biochemistry, biomembranes, stem cell and regenerative medicine



Yulia Ilieva

**Institute of Biology and
Immunology of Reproduction “Acad. K. Bratanov”**

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Yulia is medical biologist and PhD student in Immunology, conducting research on cellular mechanisms underlying inflammation, pyroptosis, with a focus on molecular and imaging-based approaches with experience in PCR, Oxford Nanopore Sequencing, and 3D imaging.

PHD STUDENT IN IMMUNOLOGY 2023-2025;
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT LABORATORY OF
REPRODUCTIVE OMICS TECHNOLOGIES
INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY OF
REPRODUCTION "ACAD. KIRIL BRATANOV",
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
MSC IN MEDICAL BIOLOGY 2022 – PLOVDIV
UNIVERSITY "PAISII HILENDARSKI"
BSC IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY 2021 – SOFIA
UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"



Kalina Belezmezova, PhD
Department of Biology, Faculty of
Medicine
Medical University -Sofia

The research of Dr. Belezmezova focuses on immunology and reproductive genetics, with a particular interest in stem cell biology. She studies the immunomodulatory and

PhD in Immunology 2022 - Medical University
of Sofia, University Hospital “St. Ivan Rilski,”
Department of Clinical Immunology
MSc in Biochemistry 2017 – Sofia University,
Faculty of Biology
Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology
at the Medical University of Sofia.
Previous positions since 2017 include biologist at
Tissue bank “BulGen”, Laboratory for
Mesenchymal Stem Cells; Laboratory of
Genetics, Medical Complex “Dr. Shterev”.

clinical applications of mesenchymal stem cells in various diseases and conditions, including human infertility.



Borislav Arabadjiev
Faculty of Biology,
Sofia University "St. Kliment
Ohridski"

PhD in Cell Biology 2017, Chief Assistant
Professor, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",
Faculty of Biology, Chair of Cell and
Developmental Biology

MSc in Cell Biology, Sofia University "St. Kliment
Ohridski" – 2006

Previous positions 2003 – 2008 include biologist at
the Institute of Molecular Biology, Institute of
Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering, Bulgarian
Academy of Sciences

Scientific interests and area of research:
Stem cells, cell culture, in vitro gamete
differentiation, cell signaling