

Vukasin Jovanovic, PhD

Post-doctoral fellow, Stem Cell Translation Laboratory

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Biography

Vukasin Jovanovic is a post-doctoral fellow in the Stem Cell Translation Laboratory at NCATS. Prior to joining NCATS in May 2018, Vukasin obtained his Ph.D. degree in Physiology and Cell Biology from Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. Previously, he graduated and earned MSc degree in Medical Biochemistry from the University of Belgrade, Serbia.

Research Topics

As a post-doctoral fellow at the NCATS, Vukasin aims to optimize the protocols for neuronal differentiation of human induced pluripotent/embryonic stem cells and to translate his findings into a better understanding and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. During the course of his PhD studies, Vukasin identified novel genetic pathway controlling neurogenesis as well as the molecular underpinnings of the development of stem cells to midbrain dopaminergic neurons.

Selected Publications

1. [BMP/SMAD Pathway Promotes Neurogenesis of Midbrain Dopaminergic Neurons *In Vivo* and in Human Induced Pluripotent and Neural Stem Cells.](#) PMID: 29321139
2. [Dusp16 Deficiency Causes Congenital Obstructive Hydrocephalus and Brain Overgrowth by Expansion of the Neural Progenitor Pool.](#) PMID: 29170629
3. [Otx2 Requires Lmx1b to Control the Development of Mesodiencephalic Dopaminergic Neurons.](#) PMID: 26444681
4. [Abnormal development of monoaminergic neurons is implicated in mood fluctuations and bipolar disorder.](#) PMID: 25241801