

Manuscript no. HAEMATOL/2011/044792 entitled “Toll-like receptor signaling pathway in chronic lymphocytic leukemia: distinct gene expression profiles of potential pathogenetic significance in specific subsets of patients”

Authors: Eleni Arvaniti, Stavroula Ntoufa, Nikos Papakonstantinou, Tasoula Touloumenidou, Nikolaos Laoutaris, Achilles Anagnostopoulos, Klea Lamnissou, Federico Caligaris-Cappio, Kostas Stamatopoulos, Paolo Ghia, Marta Muzio, Chrysoula Belessi

Information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in the study

- 1) Guarantor(s)**, i.e., person(s) who is (are) responsible for the integrity of the work as a whole:
- Kostas Stamatopoulos, Hematology Department and HCT Unit, G. Papanicolaou Hospital, 57010 Thessaloniki, GREECE, kostas.stamatopoulos@gmail.com
 - Paolo Ghia, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, 20132 Milano, Italy, ghia-paolo@hsr.it
 - Marta Muzio, Division of Molecular Oncology, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, 20132 Milano, Italy, muzio.marta@hsr.it
 - Chrysoula Belessi, Hematology Department, Nikea General Hospital, Pireaus, Greece, cbelessi@gmail.com

According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html): “*Authorship credit should be based on: 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3 Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship*”.

The guarantors of this manuscript confirm that all persons designated as authors qualify for authorship, and that each author has participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

2) Authors who participated in the **conception of the study**: Kostas Stamatopoulos, Paolo Ghia, Marta Muzio, Chrysoula Belessi

3) **Design & Methods**. The following authors were responsible for specific investigations (please detail):

- Eleni Arvaniti and Stavroula Ntoufa were responsible for experimental analysis, interpretation of the results and drafting of the paper.
- Nikos Papakonstantinou and Tasoula Touloumenidou were responsible experimental analysis.
- Nikolaos Laoutaris, Achilles Anagnostopoulos and Federico Caligaris-Cappio were responsible for providing clinical samples and associated data.
- Kostas Stamatopoulos, Paolo Ghia, Marta Muzio and Chrysoula Belessi were responsible for designing and supervising the research and writing the paper.

4) **Results**. The following authors were responsible for specific portions of the results, including figures and tables (please indicate the person responsible for each figure and each table):

- Eleni Arvaniti, Stavroula Ntoufa, Nikos Papakonstantinou and Tasoula Touloumenidou were responsible for the RQ-PCR analysis.
- Eleni Arvaniti and Stavroula Ntoufa were responsible for Western blotting experiments.
- Stavroula Ntoufa was responsible for flow cytometry studies.
- Eleni Arvaniti, Stavroula Ntoufa and Nikos Papakonstantinou were responsible for the preparation of all figures and tables.

5) **Writing the manuscript.** The following authors were responsible for writing the manuscript:
• Eleni Arvaniti, Stavroula Ntoufa, Kostas Stamatopoulos, Paolo Ghia, Marta Muzio and Chrysoula Belessi were responsible for writing all sections of the manuscript.

6) Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments:

No other individuals than those listed as co-authors assisted with the study design, data collection, data analysis, or manuscript preparation.

This work was supported by the Program grant in Molecular Clinical Oncology-5 per mille number 9965 and Investigator grant (to FCC and PG), Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (Milano, Italy); PRIN, MIUR (Rome, Italy); Progetti Integrati Oncologia (PIO), Ministero della Salute (Rome, Italy); Cariplo Foundation (Milano, Italy); Leukemia Research Foundation (Illinois, US); U.S./European Alliance for the Therapy of CLL, CLL Global Research Foundation (Texas, US); Greek Ministry of Health (Athens, Greece); ENosAI project (code 09SYN-13-880), co-funded by the EU and the Hellenic General Secretariat for Research and Technology.