

TAULANT KUKAJ, PhD

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Pharmaceutical scientist and educator with experience in regulatory affairs, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and biomedical research.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Scientific Researcher – Universitätsklinikum Jena, Germany **2025**

Conducts experimental studies on GPCRs and ion channels as potential drug targets and mentors medical, pharmacy, and dental students in physiology.

External Lecturer – Heimerer College, Kosovo **2025**

Delivers lectures in medical and laboratory science.

Regulatory Affairs Manager – Gentipharm Pharmaceuticals, Kosovo **2015**

Prepared regulatory dossiers for generic and herbal medicines and coordinated with the national authority (AKPM) for marketing authorization submissions.

Manufacturing Supervisor – Gentipharm Pharmaceuticals, Kosovo **2014**

Supervised GMP-compliant production of oral syrups, topical creams, and suppositories and organized quality control sampling and training programs for staff.

EDUCATION

PhD in Biomedicine – Universitätsklinikum Jena, Germany

MSc in Organic Chemistry – University of Prishtina & University of Bologna

MPharm (Master of Pharmacy) – University of Prishtina, Kosovo

CERTIFICATIONS AND HONORS

Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Trial Management, Parexel Academy, Berlin

Project Management in Science, ADEN Training, Berlin

DAAD and Erasmus Mundus Scholarships

PhD defended with *Summa Cum Laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Kinetic fingerprinting of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors

Taulant Kukaj^{*}, Christian Sattler, Thomas Zimmer, Ralf Schmauder & Klaus Benndorf. **Com Biol** 6, 104 (2023) doi.org/10.1038/s42003-023-04468-z

Thermodynamic profile of mutual subunit control in a heteromeric receptor

Jana Schirmeyer^{*}, Sabine Hummert, Thomas Eick, Eckhard Schulz, Tina Schwabe, Gunter Ehrlich, Taulant Kukaj, Melanie Wiegand, Christian Sattler, Ralf Schmauder, Thomas Zimmer, Nisa Kosmalla, Jan Munch, Michele Bonus, Holger Gohlke, and Klaus Benndorf, PNAS: Proc. **Natl. Acad. Sci. USA**, 2021 doi: 118 (30) e210046118

Action potentials in *Xenopus* oocytes triggered by blue light

Florian Walther^{*}, Dominic Feind^{*}, Christian vom Dahl^{*}, Taulant Kukaj, Christian Sattler, Georg Nagel, Shiqiang Gao, and Thomas Zimmer. **JGP: J Gen Physiol**, 2020 doi: 152 (5): e201912489

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Stepwise activation of a class C GPCR begins with millisecond dimer rearrangement

Eugene O. Grushevskyi*, Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder*, Andreas Bock, Ulrike Zabel, Tina Schwabe, Klaus Benndorf, and Martin Lohse. **PNAS: Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA**, 2019 doi: 116 (20) 10150-10155

CONFERENCES

mGluR7 influences activation kinetics when forming heterodimers with members of group II mGluRs

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Christian Sattler, Thomas Zimmer & Klaus Benndorf

67th Biophysical Society Meeting, San Diego, California, USA Feb 18th – 22nd, 2023

Dimerization and kinetics within groups of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Christian Sattler, Thomas Zimmer & Klaus Benndorf

100th Annual Meeting of the German Physiological Society Frankfurt, Germany Sep 30th- Oct 2nd, 2021

Kinetic differences between homomeric and heteromeric mGluRs

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Christian Sattler, Thomas Zimmer & Klaus Benndorf

Transatlantic GPCR Symposium (remote) July 8th, 2021 **(Poster price)**

GPCR activation and deactivation kinetics by rapid solution exchange in excised membrane patches

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Christian Sattler, Thomas Zimmer & Klaus Benndorf

64th Biophysical Society Meeting, San Diego, California, USA Feb 15th – 19th, 2020

Activation and deactivation kinetics of class C GPCRs studied with confocal patch-clamp fluorometry

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Christian Sattler, Thomas Zimmer & Klaus Benndorf

98th Meeting of the German Physiological Society, Ulm, Germany Sep 30th -Oct 2nd, 2019

Kinetics of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 1 investigated by piezo-controlled concentration jumps

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Tina Schwabe, Ulrike Zabel, Martin Lohse & Klaus Benndorf

Gordon Research Conference Molecular Pharmacology Ventura, California, USA Feb 10th – 15th, 2019

Kinetics of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 1 investigated by piezo-controlled concentration jumps

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Tina Schwabe, Ulrike Zabel, Martin Lohse & Klaus Benndorf

7th Focused Meeting on Cells Signalling Nottingham, United Kingdom Apr 16th – 18th, 2018

Kinetics of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 1 investigated by piezo-controlled concentration jumps (18-L-5599-BPS)

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Tina Schwabe, Ulrike Zabel, Martin Lohse & Klaus Benndorf

62nd Biophysical Society Meeting, San Francisco, California, USA Feb 17th – 21th, 2018

Kinetics of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 1 investigated by piezo-controlled concentration jumps

Taulant Kukaj*, Ralf Schmauder, Christian Sattler, Thomas Zimmer & Klaus Benndorf

Young Physiologist Meeting Jülich, Germany Feb 17th – 21th, 2018

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: German (Fluent), English (Fluent), Albanian (Native)

Technical Skills: Microsoft Office Suite, Data Analysis (Origin and Igor), Literature and reference tools, DaVinci Resolve