

# TAULANT KUKAJ, PhD

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### 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

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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

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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

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### 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

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

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

**67<sup>th</sup> Biophysical Society Meeting**, San Diego, California, USA Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

### Dimerization and kinetics within groups of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors

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

**100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Physiological Society** Frankfurt, Germany Sep 30<sup>th</sup>- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

### Kinetic differences between homomeric and heteromeric mGluRs

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

**Transatlantic GPCR Symposium (remote)** July 8<sup>th</sup>, 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

**64<sup>th</sup> Biophysical Society Meeting**, San Diego, California, USA Feb 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 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

**98<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the German Physiological Society**, Ulm, Germany Sep 30<sup>th</sup> -Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> .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 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 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

**7<sup>th</sup> Focused Meeting on Cells Signalling Nottingham**, United Kingdom Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 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

**62<sup>nd</sup> Biophysical Society Meeting**, San Francisco, California, USA Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup>, 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 Julich**, Germany Feb 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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