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Immune evasion by varicelloviruses : the identification of a new family of TAP-inhibiting proteins

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Curriculum Vitae

Danijela (married Koppers) Lalić was born on 28 October 1969 in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia (now Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina). After successfully completing her secondary/high school (Medical School Center, Sarajevo) education in 1988, that same year Danijela enrolled as a student at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (University of Sarajevo), and in 1992 obtained a degree in Biology. In 1992, the beginning of her academic career at the department of Experimental Biomedicine was interrupted by the outbreak of civil war in Bosnia. After being forced to leave her country in 1993, Danijela lived and worked in the Czech Republic, teaching general biology and art in a refugee camp. In 1994 she moved to the UK and once again started an academic career. After receiving an honorable scholarship from the Northamptonshire county council, she enrolled as a student at the University of Wales, Swansea, where she obtained her degree in Genetics in 1996. She also received the John Hayward Prize for the best overseas student. In 1997, Danijela completed her 10-month post-graduate internship in Prof. Dr. Willy Spaan's lab (Section Molecular Virology, LUMC, The Netherlands), working on parvovirus-based gene therapy for cancer under the supervision of Dr. Caroline Brown. The work conducted at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in 1998 marked the beginning of her PhD studies on immuno-evasion by varicelloviruses under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Emmanuel Wiertz. Immuno-evasive strategies employed by bovine herpesvirus 1 were explored in close collaboration with Dr. Frans Rijsewijk (ASG-Lelystad). In 1999, the Wiertz group moved to the Leiden University Medical Center (Department of Medical Microbiology) by establishing the section of Experimental Microbiology, where Danijela continued her PhD studies until 2006. That same year, she moved to the University of Cambridge, UK, to work on immuno-evasive strategies by gammaherpesviruses as a research associate at the Division of Virology. In 2007, Danijela moved back to the Netherlands and joined the research group of Prof. Dr. Rob Hoeben (Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Virus and Stem Cell Biology Lab, LUMC) where she is currently working as a post-doc on adenovirus-based gene therapy for cancer. Danijela is married to Thomas Koppers and they have a daughter, Rebecca, born in 2005.

Publications

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