

Leonidas C. Platanias



Current Position: Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology and Deputy Director, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois

Education: M.D. (1983) from University of Patras Medical School in Patras, Greece

Non-scientific Interests: National and international politics, history, classical music, and soccer

After moving to the United States from Greece, I worked initially at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a postdoctoral fellow working on the mechanisms of regulation of hematopoiesis by cytokines. Subsequently, I was a resident in Internal Medicine at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. I moved to Chicago in 1989, and I was a clinical and research fellow in Hematology-Oncology at the University of Chicago until 1992, where I was introduced to the field of cytokine signaling. After establishing my own laboratory working on cytokine signaling pathways in malignant cells, I gradually became interested in the mechanisms by which retinoids and arsenic trioxide generate antileukemic responses. Our work eventually led us to realize that during treatment of leukemic cells with arsenic trioxide, there is activation of certain cellular signaling cascades in a negative-feedback regulatory manner to counteract the induction of antileukemic responses. Over the years, we have focused much of our efforts on characterizing such signals that mediate leukemic cell resistance to arsenic and in identifying elements of the pathway that could be ultimately targeted for the design of novel antileukemic agents.

Read Dr. Platanias' article entitled: Biological Responses to Arsenic Compounds

<http://www.jbc.org/cgi/content/full/284/28/18583>