



Kostas Vekrellis , Ph.D

Research Director, Professor-level

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Research	Cell Biology and Biochemistry of Neurodegenerative Diseases
Keywords	Protein aggregation; amyloid proteins, prion spreading, Biomarkers; Animal models, Extracellular Vesicles Kostas Vekrellis holds a BSc and PhD in Neuroscience from University College London-UCL, UK. He has worked as Instructor in neurology at Harvard University Medical School at Brigham Hospital.
Links	PubMed: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Vekrellis+K&cauthor_id=19476547

Biography

Dr. Vekrellis is Investigator A (Research Director) in the Basic Research Center of the Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens (BRFAA). In 2014, he was appointed visiting professor at the University of Oxford, Department of Experimental Medicine. He has extensive experience in cellular and animal models of neurodegeneration, particularly in relation to Parkinson's disease (PD) and Alzheimer's Diseases (AD). His work also focuses on investigating the role of secreted amyloidogenic proteins such as α -synuclein in the spread of pathology between neurons and glia in the diseased brain. The lab has shown that the progression of PD in the brain is linked to the intracellular transport of pathogenic forms of α -synuclein in a "prion-like" mechanism via extracellular vesicles termed exosomes. In this context, the laboratory's work also aims to develop sensitive biochemical methods to detect toxic forms of α -synuclein in both exosomes and brain parenchyma in vivo. The use of Extracellular Vesicles in PD therapy is also explored. Dr. Vekrellis has secured, numerous competitive grants, including grants from H2020 and IMI2 from the European Community, Medical Research Council UK, from international organizations related to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Association as well as National Funding bodies.