

CV

Prof. Draga Toncheva

Prof. Draga Toncheva completed her education in the 11th school in Sofia with a golden medal (1968) and she finished her Higher education in Medical faculty, Medical University of Sofia (2006). Prof. Toncheva is a medical doctor (MD) (1978) and has a scientific degree D.Sc in biological sciences (2006). She specialized in Napoli, London, Moscow and Tokyo. She is Head of the Department of Medical Genetics, MU Sofia and of the National Human Genomic Center (Center of Excellence) for common diseases. She is the founder of the genetic laboratory in Tokuda Hospital Sofia and the Genomic laboratory in SBALGAR "D-r. Malinov".

Professor Toncheva develop active expert activities at national and international level. She is a National medical genetics consultant (2014) and President of the Bulgarian Science Society of "Human genetics" (2013). She was four years member of the SPC of the European Society of Human Genetics. She was Bulgarian representative and has participated in development of document for recognition of the specialty Clinical/Medical Genetics by the European Union. She was temporary consultant in WHO and member of the international consultant board at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University. She has taken part in 17 Organizational comities of scientific conferences (5 in Bulgaria and 12 abroad). She is an expert in the Ministry of Health on Rare diseases and in the National expert board on oncology.

Prof. Toncheva is an internationally known researcher. She was collaborator in 64 international projects together with genetic/genomic centers in Japan, England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Macedonia and Serbia. She is an author of 256 scientific works: 239 articles, from which 168 are published in international journals with impressive impact factor - 555,842 and h-index-23. The publications are widely cited (4790 times), predominantly by foreign authors. She was co-author in 7 monographies (2 published abroad) and 19 books. She was a mentor of 27 doctoral thesis and 52 diploma works.

In the era of genomics, which penetrated in all areas of science and change perceptions of the molecular mechanisms of various normal and pathological processes, she developed a new branch of medicine - GENOMIC MEDICINE. Her achievements can be summarized as followed: SNP array analysis of patients with aniridia, malformations, mental retardations, reproductive failures, high throughput analyses of cancer diseases and detection of prognostic and predictive markers; CNV/SNP array analyses of rare disorders and discovery of new genetic factors for their molecular pathogenesis; whole genome association studies of schizophrenia and bipolar disorders and detection of new genetic variants and "candidate genes" involved in neurotransmitter system; genetic characteristics of Bulgarian population conducted by genotyping analysis in Y chromosome and mitochondrial DNA and rejection of the concept of the Turkish origin. Prof. Toncheva raised the hypothesis of a genetic predisposition to Balkan endemic nephropathy and received positive results for association of variants in several genes with the disease.

She was awarded with many national and international awards in Tokyo Medical and Dental University; in Institute Cantacusino, Romania; award for the approved scientist in the field of biomedical sciences "Pitagor" (2010) at Bulgarian Ministry of education, science and youth, award "Acad. Dimitar Orahovec at MU Sofia for high achievements in scientific research and others.

Prof. Draga Toncheva is a distinguished scientist and promotor of the cooperation between Balkan and European countries in the field of medical genetics.