

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Astridur Palsdottir

Born 2.4.1948 in Reykjavík, Iceland

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Degrees:

B.Sc. in biology 1972. University of Iceland.

B.Sc. in biology (honours) 1973. University of Iceland.

D. Phil in molecular biology 1986., MRC Immunochemistry Unit, Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford, UK. Name of thesis: "Molecular genetics of the human complement component C4". Supervisor: Professor Rodney Porter (Nobel Prize laureate).

Research activity after 1985:

1986-1989: Project leader at the Department of Human Genetics at the Blood Bank of Iceland, University Hospital, Reykjavik, Iceland:

Research on the molecular genetics of hereditary brain haemorrhage (a fatal cystatin C inherited amyloid disease).

1989-1995: Faculty of Science, University of Iceland, Department of Science, Institute of Biology. Research professor and a project leader of the project "**Molecular genetics of thermophilic bacteria**".

Since 1995- Institute for Experimental Pathology, Keldur, Faculty of Medicine, University of Iceland.

1. Project leader of the project: "**Molecular biology of scrapie**":

- Research on the prion gene polymorphism of sheep and its association to scrapie susceptibility.

- Research on the function and localization of normal and mutant prion proteins.

2. Project leader of the project: **Hereditary cystatin C amyloid angiopathy until 2012.**

Publications:

Snorraddottir AO, Isaksson HJ, Kaeser SA, Skodras AA, Olafsson E, **Palsdottir A**, Bragason BT (2015). Parenchymal cystatin C focal deposits and glial scar formation around brain arteries in Hereditary Cystatin C Amyloid Angiopathy. *Brain research*; 1622: 149-162.

Snorraddottir AO, Isaksson HJ, Kaeser SA, Skodras AA, Olafsson E, **Palsdottir A**, Bragason BT (2013). Deposition of collagen IV and aggrecan in leptomeningeal arteries of hereditary brain haemorrhage with amyloidosis. *Brain Research*; 1535: 106-14.

Palsdottir A, Helgason A, Palsson S, Bjornsson HT, Bragason BT, Gretarsdottir S, Thorsteinsdottir U, Olafsson E, Stefansson K. (2008). A drastic reduction in the life span of cystatin C L68Q carriers due to life-style changes during the last two centuries. *PLoS Genet.* 2008 Jun 20;4(6):e1000099.

Georgsson, G., Adolfsdottir, J.A., **Palsdottir, A.**, Jorundsson, E., Sigurdarson, S., Thorgeirsdottir, S. (2008) High incidence of subclinical infection of lymphoid tissues in scrapie-affected sheep flocks. *Arch. Virol.* 153: 637-644.

Bragason, B. Th., and **Palsdottir, A.** (2008) The role of the ubiquitin proteasome system in the pathogenesis of prion diseases. *In: The Ubiquitin Proteasome System in Nervous System: From physiology to Pathology.* Eds.: M. DiNapoli M. and C. Wojcik.

Palsdottir A, Snorraddottir AO, Thorsteinsson L, (2006) Hereditary cystatin C amyloid angiopathy: genetic clinical and pathological aspects. *Brain Pathology*, 16:55-59.

Bragason, B. Th., and **Palsdottir, A.** (2005) Processing of ovine PrP(ARQ)(C)-EGFP chimeras containing Asn (138) and Cys (151) polymorphisms. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun.* 336:544-553.

Bragason, B. Th., and **Palsdottir, A.** (2005) Interaction of PrP with NRAGE, a protein involved in neuronal apoptosis. *Mol. and Cell. Neurosc.* 29: 232-44.

Ernstsson, S., Björnsdóttir, S.H., Jónsson Z.O. Thorbjarnardottir S.H., Eggertsson, G. and **Palsdottir, A.** (2003). Identification and nucleotide sequence analysis of a cryptic plasmid, pRM21, from *Rhodothermus marinus*. *Plasmid.* 49: 188-191.

Thorgeirsdottir, S., Georgsson, G. Sigurdarson, S. and Reynisson E. **Palsdottir, A.** (2002). Search for healthy carriers of scrapie: An assessment of subclinical infection of sheep in an Icelandic flock by three diagnostic methods and correlation with PrP genotypes. *Arch Virol* 147 (4): 709 – 722.

Cristina Danielle Takacs, Marissa Ehringer, Renee Favre, Michele Cermola, Gudmundur Eggertsson, **Astridur Palsdottir** and Anna-Louise Reysenbach. (2001). Phylogenetic characterization of the blue filamentous bacterial community from an Icelandic geothermal spring. *FEMS Microbiol. Ecol.* 35: 123-128.

- Thorgeirsdottir, S., Sigurdarson, S. Thorisson H.M., Georgsson, G. and **Palsdottir, A.** (1999) PrP gene polymorphism and natural scrapie in Icelandic sheep J Gen Virol 80: 2527-34.
- Halldórsdóttir, S., Thórólfsdóttir, E. T., Spilliaert, R., Johansson, M., Thorbjarnardóttir, S., **Palsdottir, A.**, Hreggvidsson, G. Ó., Kristjánsson, J., Holst, O. and Eggertsson, G. Cloning, sequencing and overexpression of a *Rhodothermus marinus* gene encoding a thermostable cellulase of the glycosyl hydrosylase family 12. Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol (1998) 49: 277-284.
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- Thorbjarnardottir, S. H., Jonsson, Z. O. , Andresson, O. A., Kristjansson, J.K., Eggertsson, G. and **Palsdottir, A.** (1995) Cloning and sequence analysis of the DNA ligase encoding gene of *Rhodothermus marinus* and overexpression, purification and characterisation of two thermophilic ligase proteins. Gene 161:1-6.
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- Spilliaert, R., Hreggvidsson G. O., Kristjansson, J. K., Eggertsson, G. and **Palsdottir, A.** (1994). Cloning and sequencing of a *Rhodothermus marinus* gene, *bglA*, coding for a thermostable β -glucanase and its expression in *Escherichia coli*. Eur. J. Biochem. 224: 923-930.
- Jonsdottir, S. and **Palsdottir, A.** (1993). Molecular diagnosis of hereditary cystatin C amyloid angiopathy. Review. Biochem. Med. Metab. Biol. 49: 117-123.
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- Palsdottir, A.**, Jonsdottir, S., Abrahamson, M., Grubb, A. and Jensson, O. (1990d) Three RFLP's at the 3' end of the cystatin C gene, the disease gene in hereditary cystatin C amyloid angiopathy (HCCAA) in Iceland. Nucleic Acids Res. 18: 7471.
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- Palsdottir, A.**, Abrahamson, M., Thorsteinsson, L., Arnason, A., Olafsson, I. and Grubb, A. (1988) Mutation in the cystatin C gene causes hereditary brain haemorrhage. Lancet 2 (8611), 603-604.
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