CURRICULUM VITAE

Family name, First name: **Cismasiu, Valeriu**

Researcher unique identifiers:
BrainMap ID: U-1700-039G-6423
ww.researchgate.net/profile/Valeriu-Cismasiu
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3215-1623

- **Education and key qualifications**

2002	PhD Institute of Biochemistry, Bucharest, Romania
1995	MSc, Faculty of Biology, Bucharest University, Romania
1994	BSc, Faculty of Biology, Bucharest University, Romania

- **Current position**

2010 - present	Researcher Victor Babes National Institute of Pathology Bucharest, Romania

- **Previous position(s)**

2021 - 2022	Staff Scientist, Houston Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, FL, USA
2008 - 2009	Visiting Scientist, MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford, UK
2009	Postdoctoral fellow, EMBL Mouse Unit, Monterotondo, Italy
2007-2008	Postdoctoral Fellow, Stem Cell Center, Lund, Sweden
2006	Researcher, Institute of Biochemistry, Bucharest, Romania
2002-2005	Postdoctoral Fellow, Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY, USA
1994-2002	Research Assistant, Institute of Biochemistry, Bucharest, Romania

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION

As a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Immunology at Albany Medical Center (NY, USA), I investigated how BCL11B shapes the lymphocyte genome. We published the first report demonstrating BCL11B-driven recruitment of the NuRD complex as part of its molecular mechanism. We further demonstrated that BCL11B acts as a context-dependent transcriptional activator or repressor. These findings were published in a series of four original research articles (Oncogene, Blood, Biochemical Journal, and Virology) and contributed to defining the molecular basis for BCL11B essential role as a lineage regulator during T cell development.

I contributed to a multi-site project across Oxford, Lund, and Monterotondo investigating microRNA function in adult hematopoiesis using in vivo mouse models. The study integrated complementary site-specific strengths, including advanced genetic mouse models and specialized expertise in stem-cell biology and hematopoiesis, to demonstrate that microRNAs are essential for the maintenance of hematopoietic stem cells under steady-state conditions and providing new mechanistic insights (published in Blood).

As researcher at Victor Babes National Institute of Pathology, I advanced the study of microRNA functions. We showed that stromal cells transfer microRNAs to hematopoietic stem cells through extracellular vesicles, revealing a previously underappreciated mechanism of paracrine regulation (published in the Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, 2015). These results suggest that miRNA-mediated paracrine signaling contributes to

the regulatory network by which the stem-cell niche governs HSC function. Since 2018, I have redirected my scientific focus toward translational research, with an emphasis on developing innovative molecular diagnostic tools to support clinical decision-making and prediction of treatment response. I led a team that developed targeted molecular assays to detect genomic DNA variants — including single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and insertions/deletions (indels) — for oncology applications; this work resulted in three patent applications filed with the Romanian State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM): RO134326, RO134998, and RO135856.

At the Immunology Department of H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute (Tampa, FL, USA), I investigated the epigenetic signatures associated with BCL11B function in tissue-resident T lymphocytes using state-of-the-art epigenomic and transcriptomic approaches. The data demonstrated that Bcl11b exerts its role by binding specific genomic locus, regulating the epigenetic landscape, and directly controlling the expression of essential genes within the multipotent/multifunctional program that governs intestinal resident memory CD8+ T cells (published in Science Immunology, 2023). The study provide evidence that BCL11B is a key regulator of the functional quality of secondary immune responses (recall responses).

I have authored and co-authored 14 peer-reviewed original research articles (35% Q1, 57% Q2); h-index 12; mean citations for main-author papers (n = 8): 73 (Web of Science, Clarivate; Jan 2026).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Head of Laboratory 2016-2018
Principal Investigator on 4 research projects (PN-II-ID-PCE-2012-4-0395, PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2016-1932, PN 18.21.01.04, PN19.29.01.03) and team leader on 2 projects (PN-II-PT-PCCA2011-3.1-0688, PN-III-P1-1.2-PCCDI-2017-0769).

Other contributions to the research community

Associate editor for Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine (John Wiley and Sons Ltd, Oxford, UK), since 2009.
Reviewer for Journal of Immunology, Frontiers in Immunology.
Member – Romanian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, since 1994
Member, Biosafety Committee — National Agency for Environment and Protected Areas, since 2020
Member – PhD evaluation committees, since 2023