



## **PITSIKAS NIKOLAOS PhD**

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### **Education**

Year

1984 BS in Pharmacy

1988 MA in Pharmacology

1999 PhD in Pharmacology

### **Research Interests**

His research interests are focused in the field of Behavioral Pharmacology. In particular, he investigates the role of nitric oxide, 5-HT<sub>2c</sub> and 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors in cognition, anxiety and schizophrenia. He also studies the psychotomimetic effects of different N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonists and the role exerted by agonists and antagonists of the metabotropic mGlu<sub>2/3</sub> receptor in cognition, anxiety, schizophrenia and obsessive compulsive disorder. He studies also the role of different neurosteroids in cognition and schizophrenia.

He is involved in a vast number of research programs either as scientific responsible or as a team member. He has different scientific collaborations both in Greece (University of Crete, University of Ioannina, Agricultural University of Athens, Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens) and with foreign scientific research centres in Italy and in USA.

### **Funding**

He is involved in a vast number of research programs either as scientific responsible or as a team member.

### **Recent Publications or Selected Publications**

1. A. Lafioniatis, V. Bermpirian, **N. Pitsikas**. Flumazenil but not bicuculline counteract the impairing effects of anesthetic ketamine on recognition memory in rats. Evidence for a functional interaction between the GABA<sub>A</sub>-benzodiazepine receptor and ketamine? *Neuropharmacology*, vol. 148: 87-95, 2019.
2. M.A. Orfanidou, A. Lafioniatis, A. Trevlopoulou, N. Touzlatzi, **N. Pitsikas**. Acute and repeated exposure with the nitric oxide (NO) donor sodium nitroprusside (SNP) differentially modulate responses in a rat model of anxiety. *Nitric Oxide*, vol. 69: 56-60, 2017.
3. **N. Pitsikas** and A. Gravanis. The novel dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative BNN27 counteracts delay-dependent and scopolamine-induced recognition memory deficits in rats. *Neurobiol. Learn. Mem.*, vol. 140: 145-153, 2017.
4. **N. Pitsikas**, A. Markou. The metabotropic glutamate 2/3 receptor agonist LY379268 counteracted ketamine- and apomorphine-induced performance deficits in the object recognition task but not object location task in rats. *Neuropharmacology*, vol. 85: 27-35, 2014.
5. A. Bouladakis and **N. Pitsikas**. Effects of the nitric oxide synthase inhibitor L-NAME on recognition and spatial memory deficits produced by different NMDA receptor antagonists in the rat. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, vol. 35: 2357-2366, 2010.

