

Zaneta Nikolovska-Coleska

Professor, of Pathology

Associate Dean, Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

University of Michigan Medical School

TPAC member since 2021

Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska received her B.S. in Pharmacy and M.S. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, in 1987 and 1993, respectively. Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska earned her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from her alma mater University in 1999 with Professors Dorevski and Solmajer, from National Institute of Chemistry in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska held the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia, from 1999-2004. She completed postdoctoral training in drug discovery with Professor Wang at the University of Michigan from 2001 to 2004. Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska was a Research Investigator and a Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine and Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Michigan, from 2004-2008 and in 2006 she received her first independent NIH grant. In November 2008, Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology as an Assistant Professor, and in 2015 was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. In 2013 she was appointed Director of the Doctoral Program in Molecular Cellular Pathology and in 2015 became a member of the Translational Oncology Program. Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska was the recipient of Pre-Doctoral Fellowship from the Macedonian Ministry of Science (1996), Amersham Pharmacia Biotech & Science Prize for Young Scientists (1999), Chemical Structures Association (CSA) Trust Award (2000), the International Pharmacy Initiative from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (2001), and New Investigator Award from Leukemia Research Foundation (2009). Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska is a member of several professional organizations including, American Chemical Society, American Association for Cancer Research, International Pharmaceutical Federation, Macedonian Pharmaceutical Association and International Chemical Biology Society where she served as a Board Director.

Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska's scientific interest in chemical genomics, discovery and application of active chemical compounds for the interrogation of biological systems and developing potential therapeutics, is long-standing and continued through her postdoctoral training as well as independent researcher. Her studies on development small-molecule inhibitors of Mcl-1 anti-apoptotic protein contributed to its validation as a therapeutic target for treatment of pancreatic cancer and provided better understanding for combination therapy. Her research on identifying and characterizing novel protein-protein interactions (PPIs) led to validation of novel therapeutic targets and strategies for targeting PPIs. During her career, Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska has published more than 58 scientific manuscripts in top ranked journals in the field of medicinal chemistry and drug discovery including JACS, J Med. Chem, ACS Chem. Biol., Mol Cancer Ther., Cancer Res., Proc Nat Acad Sci, Leukemia, and has given invited national and international presentations in numerous conferences, universities, and pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska is an inventor on more than

13 international and US patents and patent applications and her research work contributed to developing of clinical candidate AT-406, an XIAP inhibitor, which is currently in Phase I clinical trials for the treatment of human cancer. Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska has served on numerous study sections of the Department of Defense including Breast and Prostate Cancer Program, as well as on NIH study sections.

From the beginning of her independent career Dr. Nikolovska-Coleska has been participating and demonstrating commitment to graduate level education through mentoring post-doctoral fellows, graduate, and undergraduate students. Her graduate students have been academically successful and have received awards for their research, including a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, an American Chemical Society Medicinal Chemistry Letters Award, a Rackham International Student Fellowship, a Research Excellence and a Teaching Excellence Awards. Graduate students who completed their degrees have pursued their careers in academia and industry. Her efforts to enhance the educations of graduate students in translational research resulted in establishment of new co-directed course Translational Pathology 862 in conjunction with Pathology Residents Conference.