Curriculum Vitae

Dimiter Bogdanov Avtanski, Ph.D.

Contact Information

Friedman Diabetes Institute at Lenox Hill Hospital, Northwell Health
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Education

2007 **Ph.D. (Subject: Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology)**

Beth Israel Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, New York, New York, USA

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Sofia, Bulgaria

Dissertation thesis: *"Role of Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor-γ (PPARγ) in the human ovary"*
Mentors: Prof. Leonid Poretsky, M.D., Assoc. Prof. Donna Seto-Young, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Rossitza Konakchieva, Ph.D.

2000 **M.Sc. (Subject: Biology and Chemistry)**

Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria

Master theses:

1) Master thesis 1: *"Steroidogenic function of the muscus duck ovary (Cairina moschata, L.)"*, Faculty of Biology, Department of Cell Biology, Histology, and Embryology
   Mentor: Assoc. Prof. Vesselin Penkov, Ph.D.

2) Master thesis 2: *"Model of educational software: Nitrogen cycle in nature"*, Faculty of Biology and Faculty of Chemistry, Department of Methodology of Biology Education and Department of Methodology of Chemistry Education
   Mentor: Assoc. Prof. Natalia Tzanova, Ph.D.

1996-2000 Sofia University *"St. Kliment Ochridsky"*, Faculty of Biology, Subject Biology and Chemistry, Sofia, Bulgaria

1995-1996 Plovdiv University *"Paisiy Hilendarski"* Faculty of Biology, Subject Biology and Chemistry, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Professional Positions

2016-current **Assistant Professor**

Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, USA

2016-current **Director, Endocrine Laboratory**

Lenox Hill Hospital, Northwell Health, Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, New York, New York, USA

2015 **Adjunct Assistant Professor**

Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Department of Reproductive Biotechnologies and Cryobiology of Gametes, Sofia, Bulgaria

2011-2015 **Post-Doctoral Fellow**

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Comprehensive Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Department of Oncology, Breast Cancer Program, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Research project: *"Role of adipocytokines in initiation and progression of breast cancer"*
Mentor: Assoc. Prof. Dipali Sharma, Ph.D.

2008-2011 **Post-Doctoral Fellow**

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Research project: *"Role of estrogens on somatotroph hormonal production"*
Mentor: Prof. Sally Radovick, M.D.

2001-2010 **Research Associate, 1st Degree** (2008-2010)
Research Associate, 3rd Degree (2002-2008)
Biologist Specialist (2001-2002)

Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction *"Acad. Kiril Bratanov"*, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Department of Immunoneuroendocrinology, Sofia, Bulgaria

2000-2001 **Visiting Scientist**

Institute of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

Research project: *"Ovarian macrophages as neuroendocrine cells in the ovarian cycle"*
Mentor: Prof. Katharina Spanel-Borowsky, M.D., Ph.D.

Teaching

2010 **Lecturer**

Developing and lecturing of methodological seminar *"Quantitative RT-PCR analysis – opportunities, advantages, and uses in reproductive biology"* – Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria. Project FP-7-REGPOT-2009-1

2010-2012 **Lecturer and Research Associate**

7th Framework Program of the European Union *"Unlocking and development the research potential in the EU's convergence and outermost regions"*
Project: *"Reinforcement of the research capacity of the Bulgarian Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction"*; FP-7-REGPOT-2009-1

1999-2004 **Lecturer of Biology and Chemistry**

Professional Technical High School of Electronics *"John Atanasov"*, Sofia, Bulgaria

Mentorship

Friedman Diabetes Institute at Lenox Hill Hospital

02/2017-02/2018 **Anabel Garcia Corral**, Visiting Scientist and Friedman Research Fellow, Universidad Del Valle de Mexico, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico

12/2016-07/2017 **Valeriia M. Shnayder**, Visiting Scientist, St. Petersburg First Pavlov State Medical University, St. Petersburg, Russia

Johns Hopkins University

2015 **Brian Meyers**, CMM program, Johns Hopkins University

2014 **Brandi Temple**, Xavier University of Louisiana, Summer Internship Program, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Yaileen D. Guzman Avocho, University of Puerto Rico, CUPID Summer Fellowship Program, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

2013 **Timmothy Tiutan**, University of Arizona, College of Medicine, CUPID Summer Student Research, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Maran Palaniappan, Summer Student, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Kabir Chhabra, Summer Student, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

2011 **Estefania Zapata-Rodriguez**, University of Puerto Rico, STEPUP Program, NIDDK, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Beth Israel Medical Center

2004-2008 Training of research fellows, residents, and summer research students in the Endocrinology research laboratory at Beth Israel Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY.

Administrative Skills

- New laboratory set up: *architecture design and laboratory equipment set up, laboratory certification procedures, etc.*
- Laboratory management: *general laboratory management and maintenance of standard laboratory equipment*
- Research projects design
- Research grant application
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) applications
- Mentoring laboratory personnel: *technicians, research fellows, volunteers, etc.*

Professional Service

Member of Endocrine Fellowship Program Evaluation Committee (PEC), Northwell Health, New York, NY

Memberships in professional organizations

2012-present	American Association for Cancer Research
2008-present	Johns Hopkins Post-Doctoral Association, Johns Hopkins University
2004-present	Endocrine Society
2001-present	Union of Scientists in Bulgaria

Awards

2016	Top in Each Field: Ranked by Publons in Top 100 peer-reviewers in category *"Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology"*
2004-2008	*Thanks To Scandinavia Foundation* scholarship

Peer Reviews

Total:	38 (99^{th} percentile by Publons)
Last 12 months:	24 (98^{th} percentile by Publons)
Journals:	*Oncogene* (Nature Publishing Group), IF (2014): 8.459
	Oncotarget (Impact journals), IF (2014): 6.359
	Metabolism, Clinical and Experimental (Elsevier), IF (2014): 3.894
	Endocrine (Springer), IF (2014): 3.878
	Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (Wiley-Blackwell, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain), IF (2014): 2.264

Languages

Bulgarian: *native language*

English: *full professional proficiency*

German: *minimum professional proficiency*

Russian: *minimum professional proficiency*

Statistics

Citations:

Citation Indices	All	Last 5 years
Citations	345	247
h-index	8	8
i10-index	7	7

RG score: 27.77

Invited Talks

1. *"Strategies to overcome leptin signaling in breast cancer"* – Breast Cancer Program Seminar Series, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, March 10th, 2015
2. *"Oncogenic role of leptin in breast cancer"* – Breast Cancer Program Seminar Series, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, March 4th, 2013
3. *"Both estrogen receptor alpha and beta stimulate pituitary GH gene expression"* – Prostate Cancer Laboratory Seminar Series, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, September 26th, 2011
4. *"Role of estrogens in regulation of somatotroph hormonal production"* – Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria, April 20th, 2011
5. *"Direct effects of estrogens on somatotroph function"* – Division of Endocrinology Seminar Series, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, November 20th, 2009
6. *"Insulin*-independent and insulin-dependent effects of thiazolidinediones in the human ovary" – Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria, September 21st, 2006

Publications

1. Poretsky L, **Avtanski D**, Islam J, Kuei Y, Shen YL, Hirth Y, Lesser M, Rosenwaks Z, Seto-Young D 2017 Reproductive effects of irisin: initial *in vitro* studies. [manuscript in preparation]
2. **Avtanski D**, Sy V, Tan D, Liao E, Lin G, Wan S, Lesser M, Poretsky L, Seto-Young D 2017 Insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-I, IGF-binding protein (IGFBP)-1, and fibroblast growth factor (FGF)21 serum levels in Chinese women with and without gestational diabetes. [manuscript in preparation]
3. Nagalingam A, **Avtanski D**, Kuppusamy P, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2017 Molecular insights into the negative effects of obesity on tamoxifen efficacy. [manuscript in preparation]
4. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Tomaszewski JE, Risbood P, Difillippantonio MJ, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2016 Indolo-pyrido-isoquinolin based alkaloid inhibits growth, invasion and migration of breast cancer cells via activation of p53-miR34a axis. *Mol Oncol*, **10(7):**1118-32. (IF = 5.331)

5. **Avtanski D**, Hirth Y, Babushkin N, Sy V, Poretsky L, Seto-Young D 2016 *In vitro* effects of pioglitazone on the expression of components of Wnt signaling pathway and markers of bone mineralization. *Horm Metab Res*, **48(7):**468-75. (IF = 2.121)
6. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Bonner MY, Arbiser JL, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2015 Honokiol activates LKB1-miR-34a axis and antagonizes the oncogenic actions of leptin in breast cancer. *Oncotarget* **6(30):**29947-62 (IF = 6.627)
7. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Bonner, M, Arbiser JL, Saxena N, Sharma D 2015 Honokiol abrogates leptin-induced tumor progression by inhibiting Wnt1-MTA1-β-catenin signaling axis in a microRNA-34a-dependent manner. *Oncotarget* **6(18):**16396-410 (IF = 6.627)
8. **Avtanski DB**, Nagalingam A, Bonner MY, Arbiser JL, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2014 Honokiol inhibits epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer cells by targeting signal transducer and activator of transcription 3/Zeb1/E-cadherin axis. *Molecular Oncology*, **8(3):**565-80 (IF = 5.935)
9. **Avtanski D**, Novaira H, Wu S, Romero CJ, Kineman R, Lugue RM, Wondisford F, Radovick S 2014 Both Estrogen Receptor Alpha and Beta Stimulate Pituitary GH Gene Expression. *Mol Endocrinol*, **28(1):**40-52 (IF = 4.201)
10. Yan D, **Avtanski D**, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2012 Leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer cells requires β-catenin activation via Akt/GSK3-dependent and MTA1/Wnt1-dependent pathways. *J Biol Chem*, **287(11):**8598-612 (IF = 4.651)
11. Seto-Young D, **Avtanski D**, Parikh G, Suwandhi P, Strizhevsky M, Araki T, Rosenwaks Z, Poretsky L 2011 Rosiglitazone and pioglitazone inhibit estrogen synthesis in human granulosa cells by interfering with androgen binding to aromatase. *Horm Metab Res* **43(4):**250-6 (IF = 2.188)
12. Seto-Young D, **Avtanski D**, Varadinova M, Park A, Suwandhi P, Leiser A, Parikh G, Poretsky L 2011 Differential roles of MAPK-Erk/MAPK-p38 in insulin or insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-I) signaling pathways for progesterone production in human ovarian cells. *Horm Metab Res* **43(6):**386-90 (IF = 2.188)
13. Seto-Young D, **Avtanski D**, Strizhevsky M, Parikh G, Patel P, Kaplun J, Holcomb K, Rosenwaks Z, Poretsky L 2007 Interactions among peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-γ, insulin signaling pathways and steroidogenic acute regulatory protein in human ovarian cells. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* **92(6):**2232-9 (IF = 5.493)
14. Seto-Young D, Paliou M, Schlosser J, **Avtanski D**, Park A, Patel P, Holcomb K, Chang P, Poretsky L 2005 Direct thiazolidine action in the human ovary: insulin-independent and insulin-sensitizing effects on steroidogenesis and insulin-like growth factor binding protein-1 production. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* **90(11):**6099-6105 (IF = 6.02)
15. **Avtanski D**, Tzanova N, Boyadjieva E 2003 Model of educational software: Nitrogen cycle in nature (article in Bulgarian). *9eme Session Scientique, Sofia '01, Annuaire de l'Universite de Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski"* **95(4):**307-12

Abstracts

1. [upcoming] 2017 *Friedman Fellows Symposium*, Chicago, Illinois – poster presentation
2. **Avtanski D**, Kuppusamy P, Sonmez H, Shnayder V, Wolfe A, Pavlov VA, Tracey KJ, Poretsky L 2017 Plasma levels of resistin correlate with adenylyl cyclase-associated protein 1 (CAP1) in diet-induced obesity mouse model. *The Endocrine Society's Annual Meeting (ENDO 2017)*, Orlando, Florida, USA – poster presentation

3. **Avtanski D**, Kuppusamy P, Sonmez H, Shnayder V, Wolfe A, Pavlov VA, Tracey KJ, Poretsky L 2017 Plasma levels of resistin correlate with adenylyl cyclase-associated protein 1 (CAP1) in diet-induced obesity mouse model. *Rachmiel Levine-Arthur Riggs Diabetes Research Symposium*, Orlando, Florida, USA – poster presentation
4. **Avtanski D**, Kuppusamy P, Sonmez H, Shnayder V, Garcia A, Wolfe A, Pavlov VA, Tracey KJ, Poretsky L 2017 Plasma levels of resistin correlate with adenylyl cyclase-associated protein 1 (CAP1) in diet-induced obesity mouse model. *3rd Annual Feinstein Symposium: Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Disorders*, Manhasset, New York, USA – poster presentation
5. Islam J, Seto-Young D, **Avtanski D**, Lesser M, Rozenwaks Z, Poretsky L 2016 Update: Does irisin has an effect on female reproductive function? Initial *in vitro* studies. *9th Annual Gerald J. Friedman Fellows Symposium*, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA – poster presentation
6. **Avtanski D**, Hirth Y, Babushkin N, Sy V, Sharma D, Poretsky L, Seto-Young D 2016 *In vitro* effects of pioglitazone on the expression of Wnt signaling pathway components and markers of bone mineralization. *2nd Feinstein Institute Research Symposium: Diabetes & Metabolic Disorders*, Manhasset, New York, USA – Abstract # 2 – poster presentation
7. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2016 Natural phenolic compound honokiol inhibits leptin-induced epithelial to mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. *The Endocrine Society's Annual Meeting (ENDO 2016)*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA – Abstract # SUN 104 – poster presentation
8. **Avtanski D**, Hirth Y, Babushkin N, Sy V, Sharma D, Poretsky L, Seto-Young D 2016 *In vitro* effects of pioglitazone on the expression of Wnt signaling pathway components and markers of bone mineralization. *The Endocrine Society's Annual Meeting (ENDO 2016)*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA – Abstract # SUN 352 – poster presentation
9. Malhotra SV, Tomaszewski JE, Difilippantonio M, Risbood PA, Nagalingam A, **Avtanski D**, Sharma D 2015 Indolo-pyrido-isoquinolin based alkaloid inhibits growth of breast cancer cells *Division of Medicinal Chemistry 250th National Meeting and Exposition*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA – Abstract # MEDI 193 – poster presentation
10. **Avtanski D**, Tiutan T, Saxena N, Sharma D 2014 Novel mechanistic insights into the bioactive compound honokiol-mediated inhibition of epithelial to mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. Therapeutic modulation of miR-34a via tumor suppressor LKB1. *Annual Safeway Breast Cancer Retreat*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA – Abstract # 2 – poster presentation
11. **Avtanski D**, Tiutan T, Saxena N, Sharma D 2014 Novel mechanistic insights into the bioactive compound honokiol-mediated inhibition of epithelial to mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. Therapeutic modulation of miR-34a via tumor suppressor LKB1. *The Johns Hopkins University Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center Fellow Research Day 2014*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Abstract # 3 – poster presentation
12. **Avtanski D**, Tiutan T, Saxena N, Sharma D 2014 Novel mechanistic insights into the bioactive compound honokiol-mediated inhibition of epithelial to mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. Therapeutic modulation of miR-34a via tumor suppressor LKB1. *American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting*, San Diego, California, USA, Abstract # LB-187 – poster presentation

13. Sharma D, **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Saxena N 2013 A novel bioactive approach to inhibit leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. *2013 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*, San Antonio, Texas, USA, Abstract #851732 – poster presentation
14. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Saxena N, Sharma D 2013 A novel bioactive approach to inhibit leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. *Johns Hopkins Post-Doctoral Symposium*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA – poster presentation
15. **Avtanski D**, Kuie Lin Y, Hirth Y, Babushkin N, Sy V, Seth A, Pareek A, Sharma D, Poretsky L, Seto-Young D 2013 Thiazolidinedione effects on the mineral content and the components of the Wnt signaling pathway in human osteoblasts. *The Endocrine Society's 95th Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, California, USA, Abstract #4659 – poster presentation
16. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Saxena N, Sharma D 2013 Targeting epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer cells using Honokiol, a natural phenolic compound. *Annual Safeway Breast Cancer Research Retreat 2013*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA – poster presentation
17. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Saxena N, Sharma D 2013 A novel bioactive approach to inhibit leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. *Annual Safeway Breast Cancer Research Retreat 2013*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA – poster presentation
18. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Saxena N, Sharma D 2013 A novel bioactive approach to inhibit leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. *The Johns Hopkins University Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center Fellow Research Day 2013*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Abstract # 4 – poster presentation
19. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Saxena N, Sharma D 2013 A novel bioactive approach to inhibit leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. *American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting*, Washington, District of Columbia, USA, Abstract # 5497 – poster presentation
20. **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A, Kuppusamy P, Saxena N, Sharma D 2013 Targeting epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer cells using Honokiol, a natural phenolic compound. *American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting*, Washington, District of Columbia, USA, Abstract # 299 – poster presentation
21. **Avtanski D**, Yan D, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2012 Leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer cells requires β-catenin activation via Akt/GSK3-dependend and MTA/Wnt1-dependent pathways. *Annual Safeway Breast Cancer Retreat*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA – Abstract #1 – poster presentation
22. **Avtanski D**, Yan D, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2012 Leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer cells requires β-catenin activation via Akt/GSK3-dependend and MTA/Wnt1-dependent pathways. *The Johns Hopkins University Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center Fellow Research Day 2012*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Abstract #5 – poster presentation
23. **Avtanski D**, Yan D, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2012 Leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer cells requires β-catenin activation via Akt/GSK3-dependend and MTA/Wnt1-dependent pathways. *The Johns Hopkins Institute for NanoBio Technology Symposium: Cancer: The Big Picture*, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Abstract #70 – poster presentation

24. Yan D, **Avtanski D**, Saxena NK, Sharma D 2012 Leptin-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer cells requires β-catenin activation via Akt/GSK3-dependend and MTA/Wnt1-dependent pathways. *American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting*, Chicago, Illinois, USA, Abstract #349 – poster presentation
25. Zapata-Rodrigues E, Sinha Roy S, **Avtanski D**, Nagalingam A 2011 Sensitization of Human Breast Cancer Cells to Apoptosis Induced by Doxorubicin Using the Natural Products Benzyl Isothiocyanate and Honokiol. *Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)*, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, Abstract #488 – poster presentation
26. **Avtanski D**, Pine-Twaddell E, Kineman R, Wondisford F, Radovick S 2011 Estrogens regulate somatotroph hormonal production directly through estrogen receptor alpha. *The Endocrine Society's 93rd Annual Meeting*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, Abstract #P1-387 – poster presentation
27. Pine-Twaddell E, Miller R, Romero C, **Avtanski D**, Radovick S 2011 Effect of CBP phosphorylation on growth hormone signaling in the somatotroph. *The Endocrine Society's 93rd Annual Meeting*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, Abstract #P2-338 – poster presentation
28. **Avtanski D**, Wondisford F, Radovick S 2010 Enhanced GH gene expression by estrogen receptor activation. *The Endocrine Society's 92nd Annual Meeting*, San Diego, California, USA, Abstract #P3-241 – poster presentation
29. **Avtanski D**, Ng W, Diaczock D, Romero C, Sima D, Chen C, Novaira H, Wondisford F, Radovick S 2009 Estrogen directly increases GH expression in somatotroph cell lines. *12th International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction*, Varna, Bulgaria – poster presentation
30. Georgiev G, **Avtanski D**, Konakchieva R 2008 *In vitro* modulation of ovarian cells steroid secretion under glucocorticosteroid resistance *Scientific Session Dedicated at the 70th Anniversary of the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*, Sofia, Bulgaria – oral presentation
31. **Avtanski D**, Seto-Young D, Parikh G, Strizhevsky M, Feng Y, Pareek A, Singh J, Singh N, Polskaya M, Rosenwaks Z, Poretsky L 2008 Thiazolidinediones inhibit estrogen synthesis by interfering with androgen binding to aromatase. *The Endocrine Society's 90th Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, California, USA, Abstract # P2-44 – poster presentation
32. **Avtanski D**, Strizhevsky M, Parikh G, Araki T, Rosen O, Demetri C, Goldman M, Cadag S, Rosenwaks Z, Poretsky L, Seto-Young D 2007 The effects of thiazolidinediones on estrogen production in human granulosa cells. *The Endocrine Society's 89th Annual Meeting*, Toronto, Canada, Abstract #P1-317 – poster presentation
33. **Avtanski D**, Park A, Kaplun J, Strizhevsky M, Kantor Y, Holcomb K, Poretsky L, Seto-Young D 2006 Effects of mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) inhibition on progesterone and insulin-like growth factor binding protein-1 (IGFBP-1) production in human ovarian cells. *The Endocrine Society's 88th Annual Meeting*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, Abstract #P1-409 – poster presentation
34. **Avtanski D**, Kaplun J, Strizhevsky M, Park A, Patel P, Kantor Y, Kearny Brown M, Dhillon S, Pang X, Goldman M, Yeshou D, Moosavy A, Holcomb K, Rosenwaks Z, Seto-Young D, Poretsky L 2006 Interactions among PPARγ, insulin signaling pathways and aromatase in human ovarian cells. *The Endocrine Society's 88th Annual Meeting*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, Abstract #P1-397 – poster presentation

35. **Avtanski D**, D. Seto-Young, R. Konakchieva, L. Poretsky 2006 Insulin-independent and insulin-sensitizing effects of thiazolidinediones in human ovary. *11th International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction*, Varna, Bulgaria – poster presentation
36. Seto-Young D, **Avtanski D**, Poretsky L 2006 Insulin and peroxisome proliferator activated receptor γ signaling in human ovary – basic mechanisms and clinical implications. *11th International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction*, Varna, Bulgaria – oral presentation
37. **Avtanski D**, Seto-Young D, Konakchieva R, Poretsky L 2006 The human ovary – target of PPARγ-mediated action of thiazolidinediones. *7th National Congress on Sterility, Contraception and Hormone Replacement Therapy*, Borovetz, Bulgaria – oral presentation
38. Seto-Young D, Paliou M, Schlosser J, Patel P, Park A, **Avtanski D**, Latif W, Babar N, Yeshou D, Omry G, Holcomb K, Poretsky L 2005 Peroxysome proliferator-activated receptor γ (PPARγ) in human ovarian cells: its role in regulation of steroidogenesis and IGFBP-1 production. *The Endocrine Society's 87th Annual Meeting*, San Diego, California, USA, Abstract #P3-564 – poster presentation
39. Taushanova P, **Avtanski D**, Konakchieva R 2003 Immunomodulation by melatonin – physiological significance. *10th Jubilee International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction*, Varna, Bulgaria – poster presentation
40. Taushanova P, **Avtanski D**, Konakchieva R 2002 Immunomodulation by melatonin – interference in glucocorticoid-induced differentiation of lymphocytes. *10th Meeting of the European Neuroendocrine Association (ENEA)*, Munich, Germany – poster presentation
41. **Avtanski D**, Konakchieva R 2001 Immunomodulation by melatonin. *9th Scientific Session of the Faculty of Biology, Sofia University*, Sofia, Bulgaria – oral presentation
42. **Avtanski D**, Kehayov I, Konakchieva R 2001 Calcium-binding proteins of the S100 family are targeted by glucocorticoids in process of differentiation and apoptosis. *9th Scientific Session of the Faculty of Biology*, Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria – oral presentation
43. **Avtanski D**, Tzanova N 2001 Model of educational software: Nitrogen cycle in nature. *9th Scientific Session of the Faculty of Biology*, Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria – oral presentation
44. **Avtanski D**, Penkov V 2000 Follicular atresia in muscus duck *(Cairina moschata*, L.*). National Student Scientific Session, Sofia University and Sofia Medical University*, Sofia, Bulgaria – oral presentation
45. **Avtanski D** 1998 Histochemical study of the ovary of muscus duck *(Cairina moschata, L.)* regarding its steroidogenic function. *Student Scientific Conference of the Faculty of Biology, Sofia University*, Sofia, Bulgaria – oral presentation