

Agnė Barauskaitė

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

2021 – until now Doctoral student in the field of biology in the science area of Natural Sciences (Vytautas Magnus University and Nature Research Centre).
Research theme: “Investigation of parasitic protozoa in the environmental samples and their identification by molecular methods”, supervisor – dr. Živilė Strazdaitė-Žielienė.
Field of research: extraction of single-celled protozoa from environmental samples, application of genetic engineering and molecular methods for the identification of single-celled protozoa.

2019 – 2021 Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Bioengineering / Master’s degree.
Graduation thesis “Optimization of identification of domestic animals infecting *Sarcocystis* parasites from water samples”, thesis supervisor – dr. Živilė Strazdaitė-Žielienė.
Bachelor's thesis was conducted at the Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Genetics.
Research area: genetic engineering, adaptation, and optimization of molecular methods for identification of *Sarcocystis* spp. from water samples.

2015 – 2019 Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Bioengineering / Bachelor’s degree.
Graduation thesis “Optimization of the molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* parasites found in bovine”, thesis supervisor – dr. Živilė Strazdaitė-Žielienė.
Bachelor's thesis was carried out at the Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Genetics.
Research area: genetic engineering, adaptation, and optimization of molecular methods for identification of *Sarcocystis* spp. from carcass samples.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023 06 – until now **Junior researcher**
Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Genetics

2022 12 – 2023 06 **Biologist**
Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Genetics

2021 10 – until now **Doctoral student**
Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Genetics

2020 03 – 2021 12 **Biologist**
Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Genetics

2018 09 – 2020 03 **Chief Laboratory Assistant**
Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Genetics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Experience in working with genetic structures of microorganisms (DNA) using genetic engineering and molecular biology methods. Identification of *Sarcocystis* parasites by molecular methods in the natural environment. Investigations of molecular mechanisms of yeast common in the natural environment using modern genetic methods.

Identification of microorganisms using genetic methods and application of genetic engineering technologies in research. Experience in working with environmental samples: isolation and identification of yeast from berries and fruits, isolation, and identification of parasites of the genus *Sarcocystis* from environmental and carcass samples. Professional skills: DNA allocation, DNA amplification and sequence analysis. Analysis of the obtained data using computer programs MS Office, Chrome Lite. Skills in working with online databases “EBI”, “NCBI”, “GeneBank”.

PUBLICATIONS

Scientific articles published in journals (books), indexed in „Clarivate Analytics Web of Science“ database (with citation index):

1. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Servienė, E., Butkauskas, D., Prakas, P. Molecular Identification of Protozoan *Sarcocystis* in Different Types of Water Bodies in Lithuania. *Life*. 2023, 13:51. <https://doi.org/10.3390/life13010051>.
2. Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Butkauskas, D., Servienė, E., Prakas, P. Molecular Identification of Parasitic Protozoa *Sarcocystis* in Water Samples. *Veterinary Sciences*. 2022, 9(8):412. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci9080412>.
3. Prakas, P., Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Januškevičius, V., Chiesa, F., **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Servienė, E., Petkevičius, S., Butkauskas, D. Molecular identification of four *Sarcocystis* species in cattle from Lithuania, including *S. hominis*, and development of a rapid molecular detection method. *Parasites Vectors*. 2020, 13:610. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-020-04473-9>.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

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| 2023 – 2026 | project participant in the Researcher Groups project “Comprehensive analysis of microorganisms and Protozoan parasites in (Lithuanian) farmlands: water, soil, and feed”, funded by Research Council of Lithuania. Project leader: dr. Juliana Lukša. |
| 2020 – 2021 | project participant in the Researcher Groups project “Molecular identification of <i>Sarcocystis</i> species in predator and water samples”, funded by Research Council of Lithuania. Project leader: dr. Dalius Butkauskas. |
| 2020 – 2021 | project participant in the Student Scientific Practice project “Investigation of <i>Sarcocystis</i> parasites in natural ecosystems and their identification by molecular methods”. Funded by Research Council of Lithuania. Supervisor: dr. Živilė Strazdaitė-Žielienė. |

INTERNSHIP AND TRAINING

2023 09 10 – 2023 09 22 **Institute of Parasitology, University of Bern (IPB). Supervisor at the institution Gastón Moré, Dr. med. vet., PhD.**

During the internship at IPB, I was able to learn new methods for molecular species identification of *Sarcocystis* spp., *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Neospora caninum* and *Hammondia heydorni* from environmental samples that have not yet been applied in Lithuania. I learned to estimate the concentration of protozoa in natural samples using the qPCR method. Also, I had the opportunity to see how a protozoan-like single cyst is being isolated and identified. The main focus was on learning methods and new ways to identify parasitic protozoa other than *Sarcocystis* (e.g. *Toxoplasma gondii*) from environmental samples.

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

International scientific conferences:

1. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Prakas, P., Butkauskas, D., Servienė, E. Prevalence of domestic animals infecting *Sarcocystis* parasites in samples from sediment of water bodies in the Baltic States and Poland. 2023. *Congress of European Microbiologists "FEMS2023"*, July 9-13, Hamburg, Germany. Book of Abstracts: 703.
2. Stundžėnaitė, A.*, **Baranauskaitė, A.***, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Prakas, P., Servienė, E. Prevalence of *Sarcocystis* parasites in environmental samples from Lithuania. 2023. *The Coins conference*, April 24-27, Vilnius, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts: 86. *These authors contributed equally to this work.
3. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Prakas, P., Butkauskas, D., Servienė, E. 2023. Identification of *Sarcocystis* Parasites from Animal Carcass and Environmental Samples Using *cox1* as Genetic Marker. VIII Baltic Genetics Congress, March 22–24, Kaunas, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts, 27.
4. Prakas, P., Butkauskas, D., Servienė, E., Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Gudiškis, N., **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Marandykina-Prakienė, A., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E. 2022. Investigation of *Sarcocystis* spp. found in sheep and horses from Lithuania. *6th International Meeting on Apicomplexan Parasites in Farm Animals*, October 5–7, Bern, Switzerland. Book of Abstracts: 73.
5. **Baranauskaitė, A.** 2022. Prevalence and diversity of *Sarcocystis* infections in bovine animals in Lithuania. *The international conference „Mikrobiologija 2022“*, April 28–29, Birštonas, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts: 25.
6. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Petrauskas, M., Paliovkinas, D., Prakas, P., Servienė, E. 2022. Optimization of molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* parasites infecting domestic animals. *The international conference „Mikrobiologija 2022“*, April 28–29, Birštonas, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts: 50.
7. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Prakas, P., Servienė, E. 2022. Prevalence of domestic animals infecting *Sarcocystis* parasites in samples from different types of water in Lithuania. *The International conference Coins 2022*, February 28 – March 3, Vilnius, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts, 12.
8. Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Servienė, E., Butkauskas, D., Dobrovolskis, L., Šikšniūtė, E., Prakas P. 2021. Microorganisms diversity and prevalence in Baltic states aquatic ecosystems. *World microbe forum online conference*, June 20–24.

9. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Prakas, P., Servienė, E. 2021. Optimization of identification of domestic animals infecting *Sarcocystis* parasites found in water. *9th Conference of the Scandinavian - Baltic Society for Parasitology*, April 21–23. Book of Abstracts: 69.
10. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Prakas, P., Servienė, E. 2021. Prevalence of *Sarcocystis* parasites infecting farmed animals in water samples from Lithuania. *The Coins 2021 Conference*, March 30, Vilnius, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts: 67.
11. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Prakas, P., Servienė, E., Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž. 2021. Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* species and their prevalence in environmental samples. *The Coins 2021 Conference*, March 30, Vilnius, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts: 69.
12. Prakas, P., Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Januškevičius, V., Chiesa, F., **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Servienė, E., Petkevičius, S., Butkauskas, D. 2019. Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis hominis* and other three *Sarcocystis* species in cattle meat from Lithuania. *5th International Meeting on Apicomplexan Parasites in Farm Animals*, September 2–4, Berlin, Germany.
13. Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Januškevičius, V., Servienė, E., Butkauskas, D., Dobrovolskis, L., Prakas P. 2019. Optimization of molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* species from cattle meat. *FEBS3+ conference*, June 17–19, Riga, Latvia

National scientific conferences:

1. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Dobrovolskis, L., Prakas, P., Servienė, E., Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž. 2023. Mikroorganizmų įvairovė ir paplitimas Lietuvos teritorinėje Baltijos jūros pakrantėje ir pajūrio upių baseino telkiniuose. *Jūros ir krantų tyrimai – 2023*, April 19–21, Nida, Lithuania.
2. **Baranauskaitė, A.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž. 2021. *Sarcocystis* parazitų paieška gamtinėse ekosistemose ir jų identifikavimas molekuliniiais metodais. *Student scientific conference*, May 11.