

# Vaidas Palinauskas

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vaidas-palinauskas-44767b2/>

## EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

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- 2005 – 2009 PhD in Zoology (05 B) in the field of biomedical sciences (Vilnius University and Institute of Ecology).  
Thesis: "Experimental investigation of avian malaria parasites (*Plasmodium*, Haemosporida): linkage of traditional and molecular data", supervisor - habil. dr. G. Valkiūnas.  
Research area: parasitology; specificity, virulence, molecular diagnosis and distribution of avian malaria agents.
- 2003 – 2005 Vilnius University, Centre for Environmental Studies / Master's degree.  
Master's thesis topic: „Avian haemosporidia as biomarkers in population studies of passerines“  
The thesis was carried out at the Institute of Ecology, P. B. Šivitsky Laboratory of Parasitology.  
Research area: parasitology; identification of haemosporidial parasites in wild birds.
- 1999 – 2003 Vilnius University, Centre for Environmental Studies / Bachelor's degree.  
Bachelor's thesis topic: "Studies on the structure of the population of tits in the Curonian Spit using blood parasites as biomarkers" The work was carried out at the Institute of Ecology, P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology.  
Research area: parasitology; identification of infection of the Curonian Spit bird population with *Leucocytozoon* spp. parasites.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2022 – iki dabar **Chief Researcher**  
(P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology, Nature Research Centre)
- 2010 – 2022 **Senior Researcher**  
(P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology, Nature Research Centre)
- 2009 – 2010 **Junior Researcher**  
(P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology, Nature Research Centre)
- 2005 – 2009 **PhD student**  
(P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology, Nature Research Centre)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Studies on the vertebrate host and vector specificity and virulence of avian malaria parasites and other haemosporidia, identification of genetic factors influencing parasite virulence, genetic divergence of haemosporidian parasites, molecular and evolutionary biology, development of new

molecular techniques and studies of the factors determining parasite transmission; the influence of the microbiota on the development of malaria parasites and the influence of the parasite on the host microbiota. Experimental work using a vertebrate host, a haemosporidian parasite and a vector; studies of haemosporidia using light microscopy and morphometry, PCR and sequencing methods for parasite diagnosis, molecular analysis of laser-dissected single parasite cells, methods to untangle parasite and host gene expression and microbiome analysis.

## PUBLICATIONS

*Scientific articles published in journals (books), indexed in „Clarivate Analytics Web of Science“ database (with citation index) of the last 5 years:*

1. Aželytė, J., Wu-Chuang, A., Žiegytė, R., Platonova, E., Mateos-Hernandez, L., Maye, J., Obregon, D., **Palinauskas, V.**, Cabezas-Cruz, A. **2022.** Anti-microbiota vaccine reduces avian malaria infection within mosquito vectors. *Frontiers in Immunology*. 13:841835. DOI: 10.3389/fimmu.2022.841835.
2. Aželytė, J., Platonova, E., Bensch, S., Hellgren, O., **Palinauskas, V.** **2022.** A comparative analysis of the dynamics of *Plasmodium relictum* (GRW4) development in the blood during single and co-infections. *Acta Tropica*. 226. DOI: 10.1016/j.actatropica.2021.106247
3. Ellis, V. A., Kalbskopf, V., Ciloglu, A., Duc, M., Huang, X., Inci, A., Bensch, S., Hellgren, O., **Palinauskas, V.** **2022.** Genomic sequence capture of *Plasmodium relictum* in experimentally infected birds. *Parasites & Vectors*, 15:267, DOI 10.1186/s13071-022-05373-w
4. Maitre, A., Wu-Chuang, A., Aželytė, J., **Palinauskas, V.**, Mateos-Hernandez, L., Obregon, D., Hodzic, A., Moro, C. V., Estrada-Pena, A., Paoli, J., Falchi, A., Cabezas-Cruz, A. **2022.** Vector microbiota manipulation by host antibodies: the forgotten strategy to develop transmission-blocking vaccines. *Parasites & Vectors*. 15: 4. DOI: 10.1186/s13071-021-05122-5
5. **Palinauskas, V.**, Mateos-Hernandez, L., Wu-Chuang, A., de la Fuente, J., Aželytė, J., Obregon, D., Cabezas-Cruz, A. **2022.** Exploring the ecological implications of microbiota diversity in birds: natural barriers against avian malaria. *Frontiers in Immunology: Hypothesis and Theory*. DOI 10.3389/fimmu.2022.807682
6. **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., Bernotienė, R. **2022.** Experimental study on primary bird co-infection with two *Plasmodium relictum* lineages – pSGS1 and pGRW11. *Animals*, 12, DOI 10.3390/ani12151879
7. Žiegytė, R., Bernotienė, R., **Palinauskas, V.** **2022** *Culicoides segnis* and *Culicoides pictipennis* biting midges (Diptera, Ceratopogonidae), new reported vectors of *Haemoproteus* parasites. *Microorganisms*. 10 (5) 1-9. DOI: 10.3390/microorganisms10050898
8. Martinez-de la Puente, J., Santiago-Alarcon, D., **Palinauskas, V.**, Bensch, S. **2021.** *Plasmodium relictum*. *Trends in Parasitology*, 37(4). DOI 10.1016/j.pt.2020.06.004
9. Kalbskopf, V., Ahren, D., Valkiūnas, G., Palinauskas, V., Hellgren, O. **2021.** Shifts in gene expression variability in the blood-stage of *Plasmodium relictum*. *Gene*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gene.2021.145723>
10. Platonova, E., Aželytė, J., Iezhova, T., Ilgūnas, M., Mukhin, A., **Palinauskas V.** **2021.** Experimental study of newly described avian malaria parasite *Plasmodium (Novyella) collidatum* n. sp., genetic lineage pFANTAIL01 obtained from South Asian migrant bird. *Malaria Journal*. DOI 10.21203/rs.3.rs-103610/v1
11. Žiegytė, R., Platonova, E., Kinderis, E., Mukhin, A., **Palinauskas, V.**, Bernotienė, R. **2021.** *Culicoides* biting midges involved in transmission of haemoproteids. *Parasites & Vectors*. 14: 27. DOI 10.1186/s13071-020-04516-1
12. Videvall, E., **Palinauskas, V.**, Valkiūnas, G., Hellgren, O. **2020.** Host transcriptional responses to high- and low-virulent avian malaria parasites. *The American Naturalist*, 195(6): 1070-1084. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1086/708530>
13. Garcia-Longoria, L., **Palinauskas, V.**, Ilgūnas, M., Valkiūnas, G., Hellgren, O. **2020.** Differential gene expression of *Plasmodium homocircumflexum* (lineage pCOLL4) across two

- experimentally infected passerine bird species. *Genomics*, 112(4): 2857-2865. DOI 10.1016/j.ygeno.2020.03.025
14. **Palinauskas, V.**, Platonova, E., Žiegytė, R., Mukhin, A. **2020**. Dynamics of blood and sporozoite induced malarial infections in experimentally infected passerines. *International Journal for Parasitology*, 50: 1057-1065. DOI 10.1016/j.ijpara.2020.05.015
  15. Žiegytė, R., Platonova, E., Bernotienė, R., Valkiūnas, G., **Palinauskas, V.** **2020**. Complete sporogony of the blood parasite *Haemoproteus nucleococondensus* in common biting midges: why is its transmission interrupted in Europe? *Parasitology*. 29:1-8. DOI 10.1017/S0031182020000116
  16. Ilgūnas, M., Bukauskaitė, D., **Palinauskas, V.**, Jezhova, T. A., Fragner, K., Platonova, E., Weissenböck, H., Valkiūnas, G. **2019**. Patterns of *Plasmodium homocircumflexum* virulence in experimentally infected passerine birds. *Malaria Journal*, 18: 174. DOI 10.1186/s12936-019-2810-2
  17. Ilgūnas, M., **Palinauskas, V.**, Platonova, E., Jezhova, T. A., Valkiūnas, G. **2019**. The experimental study on susceptibility of common European songbirds to *Plasmodium elongatum* (lineage pGRW6), a widespread avian malaria parasite. *Malaria Journal*, 18: 290. DOI 10.1186/s12936-019-2926-4
  18. **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., Bernotienė, R. **2018**. Different paths – the same virulence: Experimental study on avian single and co-infections with *Plasmodium relictum* and *P. elongatum*. *International Journal for Parasitology*, 48(14): 1089-1096. DOI 10.1016/j.ijpara.2018.08.003
  19. Huang, Xi., Hansson, R., **Palinauskas, V.**, Valkiūnas, G., Hellgren, O., Bensch, S. **2018**. The success of sequence capture in relation to phylogenetic distance from a reference genome: a case study of avian haemosporidian parasites. *International Journal for Parasitology*, 48(12): 947-954. DOI 10.1016/j.ijpara.2018.05.009

**Other reviewed scientific publications (books, books' chapters, collections of articles, articles, textbooks and etc.):**

1. **Palinauskas, V.**, Martinez-de la Puente, J., Hernandez-Soto, S., Marzal, A. 2020. Experimental parasitology and ecoimmunology: concepts and opportunities in avian haemosporidian studies. *Avian malaria and related parasites in the tropics: Ecology, Evolution and Systematics*, p. 528–558. Switzerland: Springer Nature Switzerland AG. DOI 10.1007/978-3-030-51633-8

## **PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS**

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| 2022 – 2025 | <b>project leader.</b> Natural anti- $\alpha$ -Gal antibodies and the protection against avian malaria. Research Council of Lithuania. Award No. S-MIP-22-52.   |
| 2020 – 2022 | <b>principal investigator.</b> Investigation of factors limiting the spread of avian haemosporidian infections. Research Council of Lithuania. Award No P-MIP-20-206  |
| 2020 – 2021 | <b>principal investigator.</b> The price to cope with avian malaria: physiological cost of choosing a different defense strategy. Russian Science Foundation. Award No. 20-14-00049   |
| 2018 – 2021 | <b>investigator.</b> Immunity in Ecology and Evolution: 'Hidden' costs of disease, immune function and their consequences for Darwinian fitness. European Research Council (ERC Advanced Grant) ERC panel_LS8 Award No 742646 |

- 2017 – 2021 **project leader.** Virulence of avian malaria: untangling genetic players for infection severity. Research Council of Lithuania (European Union Structural Funds) Award No 09.3.3-LMT-K-712-01-0016
- 2015 – 2018 **project leader.** Development of vector-borne mixed blood infections and their effect on host fitness. Research Council of Lithuania. Award No MIP-038/2015
- 2013 – 2018 **principal investigator.** The altitudinal gradient in vector-mediated blood parasites across Western Himalayan birds. Wellcome Trust/India Alliance grant. Award No IA/S/12/2/500629
- 2011 – 2015 **principal investigator.** Mechanisms of speciation in malaria parasites and related haemosporidians. Research Council of Lithuania (Global Grant) Award No VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-K-01-047

## **INTERNSHIP AND TRAINING**

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- 2021 February Internship. Immunological studies on avian malaria parasites and analysis of microbiota data (French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment, Paris, France)
- 2019 October Internship. Laboratory methods used to study disease and gene expression in avian malaria parasites (Lund University, Lund, Sweden).
- 2018 April Internship. Laboratory methods using sequence capture technique to study avian malaria parasites (Lund University, Lund, Sweden).

## **PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES**

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### *International scientific conferences (of the last 5 years):*

1. Aželytė, J., Wu-Chuang, A., Žiegytė, R., Platonova, E., Mateos-Hernandez, L., Maye, J., Obregon, D., **Palinauskas, V.**, Cabezas-Cruz, A. 2022. Microbiota modulation reduces *Plasmodium relictum* infection in mosquitoes *Culex quinquefasciatus*. 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA), Copenhagen, Denmark
2. Bernotienė, R., Kazak, M., **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R. 2022. Culicoides biting midges: vectors of avian blood parasites in Curonian spit. 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Bielefeld, Germany
3. Iezhova, T., Ilgūnas, M., **Palinauskas, V.**, Platonova, E., Valkiūnas, G. 2022. Investigation of the susceptibility of common European songbirds to *Plasmodium elongatum* (lineage pGRW6). 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Bielefeld, Germany
4. **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., Aželytė, J., Platonova, E., Bernotienė, R. 2022. Avian *Plasmodium* co-infections: development and induced disease. 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA), Copenhagen, Denmark
5. **Palinauskas, V.**, Mateos-Hernandez, L., Wu-Chuang, A., de la Fuente, J., Aželytė, J., Obregon, D., Cabezas-Cruz, A. 2022. Can gut microbiota enhance immunity against avian malaria? 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Bielefeld, Germany
6. **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., Aželytė, J., Platonova, E., Bernotienė, R. 2022. Experimental studies on avian *Plasmodium* co-infections. 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Bielefeld, Germany

7. Platonova, E., Aželytė, J., Iezhova, T., Ilgūnas, M., Mukhin, A., **Palinauskas, V.** 2022. Experimental study on development of tropical-origin *Plasmodium collidatum* (lineage pFANTAIL01). 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Bielefeld, Germany
8. Ruiz-Ruano, F.J., Albrecht, T., Boman, J., Borodin, P., Burri, R., Ekman, D., Frankl, C., Gahr, M., Griffith, S. C., Joseph, L., Irestedt, M., Jönsson, K. A., Kawakami, T., Kutschera, V. E., Malinovskaya, L., Mueller, J., **Palinauskas, V.**, Qvarnström, A., Reifova, R., Ridl, J., Rossini, R., Segami, C., Schlebusch, S., Torgasheva, A., Tan, D., Suh, A. 2022. The complex story of an old germline-restricted chromosome. Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB), Prague, Czech Republic
9. Žiegytė, R., Bernotienė, R., **Palinauskas, V.** 2022. The development of avian malaria co-infections in experimentally exposed vectors. 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Bielefeld, Germany
10. Aželytė, J., Platonova, E., Bensch, S., Hellgren, O., **Palinauskas, V.** 2021. A new protocol to distinguish morphologically identical avian malaria parasites in co-infection. 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of The Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology, Vilnius, Lithuania
11. Erokhina, M., Bushuev, A., **Palinauskas, V.**, Platonova, E., Davydov, A., Mukhin, A. 2021. How much does avian malaria cost? 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of The Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology, Vilnius, Lithuania
12. Ilgūnas, M., **Palinauskas, V.**, Platonova, E., Iezhova, T., Valkiūnas, G. 2021. Experimental study on susceptibility of common European songbirds to *Plasmodium elongatum* (lineage pGRW6). 13<sup>th</sup> European Multicolloquium of Parasitology (EMOP), Belgrade, Serbia
13. Kazak, M., Bernotienė, R., **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R. 2021. Trypanosomatids in wild-caught biting midges. 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of The Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology, Vilnius, Lithuania
14. **Palinauskas, V.**, Platonova, E. 2021. Avian malaria parasites: annual visitors and potential threats to wild birds. 13<sup>th</sup> European Multicolloquium of Parasitology (EMOP), Belgrade, Serbia (*invited presentation*)
15. Platonova, E., Aželytė, J., Iezhova, T., Ilgūnas, M., Mukhin, A., **Palinauskas, V.** 2021. Experimental study on development and virulence of tropical avian malaria parasite *Plasmodium collidatum* (genetic lineage pFANTAIL01) in a local European bird species. 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of The Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology, Vilnius, Lithuania
16. Videvall, E., **Palinauskas, V.**, Valkiūnas, G., Hellgren, O. 2021. Dual transcriptomics of avian malaria. 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of The Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology, Vilnius, Lithuania (*invited presentation*)
17. Žiegytė, R., Platonova, E., **Palinauskas, V.**, Bernotienė, R. 2021. *Culicoides* biting midges involved in transmission of haemoproteids. 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of The Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology, Vilnius, Lithuania
18. Aželytė, J., Platonova, E., Bensch, S., **Palinauskas, V.** 2020. A comparative analysis of the dynamics of *Plasmodium relictum* (GRW4) development in single and mixed infections. International Online Conference on Blood Parasites of Wildlife, Bielefeld University, Germany
19. Žiegytė, R., Platonova, E., Kinderis, E., Mukhin, A., **Palinauskas, V.**, Bernotienė, R. 2020. Some notes on the transmission on haemoproteus parasites in eastern part of Baltic region. 62nd International Scientific Conference of Daugavpils University, Daugavpils, Latvia
20. **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., Avdevič, S., Bernotienė, R. 2019. Experimental study on avian Plasmodium co-infections: the development patterns and impact on vertebrate host health. The 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology and the Annual Meeting of the European Veterinary Parasitology College, Copenhagen, Denmark
21. Žiegytė, R., Bernotienė, R., **Palinauskas, V.**, Valkiūnas, G. 2019. Why haemosporidian parasites widespread in warm climate regions are not transmitted in Europe? The 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology and the Annual Meeting of the European Veterinary Parasitology College, Copenhagen, Denmark

22. Platonova, E., Žiegytė, R., **Palinauskas, V.**, Bernotienė, R. 2019. Biting midges involved in transmission of *Haemoproteus* spp. parasites. The 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology and the Annual Meeting of the European Veterinary Parasitology College, Copenhagen, Denmark
23. Hellgren, O., Drovetski, S. V., Ellis, V. A., Ciloglu, A., Huang, X., **Palinauskas, V.** 2018. Deeper into populations and genomes of *Plasmodium relictum*. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Beijing, China
24. Iezhova, T. A., Ilgūnas, M., Bukauskaitė, D., **Palinauskas, V.**, Bernotienė, R., Valkiūnas, G. 2018. Widespread malaria parasites *Plasmodium relictum* and *Plasmodium matutinum*: how to distinguish them in blood films? 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Beijing, China
25. Ilgūnas, M., Bukauskaitė, D., **Palinauskas, V.**, Platonova, E., Fragner, K., Weissenbock, H., Valkiūnas, G. 2018. Different patterns of virulence of *Plasmodium homocircumflexum* (lineage pCOLL4) infection in wild birds. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Beijing, China
26. Ishtiaq, F., Pandey, Ch., Kumar, M., Sengupta, S., Menzies, R., Barve, S., **Palinauskas, V.** 2018. Hitchhiking Parasites: The role of bird movement, hypoxia, immunity and climate change on malaria transmission. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Beijing, China
27. Mukhin, A., **Palinauskas, V.**, Platonova, E. 2018. Can we transfer the conclusions obtained from laboratory malaria research to natural host-parasite systems? 1<sup>st</sup> Russian ornithological congress, Tver, Russia
28. **Palinauskas, V.** 2018. Recent studies on avian malaria parasites. 1<sup>st</sup> Russian ornithological congress, Tver, Russia
29. **Palinauskas, V.** 2018. Avian malaria parasites: disease severity and peculiarities of diagnosis. XIV International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA), Daegu, South Korea
30. **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., Bernotienė, R. 2018. Different paths – the same virulence: Experimental study on avian single and co-infections with *Plasmodium relictum* and *P. elongatum*. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Beijing, China
31. **Palinauskas, V.** 2018. Avian malaria diagnosis and disease severity. 5<sup>th</sup> Colombian Congress of Zoology, Bogota, Colombia (*invited presentation*)
32. **Palinauskas, V.**, Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., Bernotienė, R. 2018. Different paths – the same virulence: Experimental study on avian malaria infections. 21<sup>st</sup> Conference on Laboratory Animals in Research, Vilnius, Lithuania
33. Platonova, E., Mukhin, A., Žiegytė, R., **Palinauskas, V.** 2018. A comparative analysis of natural and experimental *Plasmodium relictum* infection in passerine birds. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Beijing, China
34. Videvall, E., Cornwallis, Ch. K., Ahren, D., **Palinauskas, V.**, Valkiūnas, G., Hellgren, O. 2018. Dual transcriptomics of avian malaria. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Beijing, China
35. Žiegytė, R., Bernotienė, R., Valkiūnas, G., **Palinauskas, V.** 2018. Why widespread *Haemoproteus nucleococondensus* (lineage hGRW8) is not transmitted in Europe? 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Beijing, China

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY PROCESS**

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### ***Supervision of PhD students:***

Scientific field: natural sciences (N000) Field of study: Zoology (N014)

[Justė](#) Thesis topic: „Avian malaria parasites: genetic structure, 2021-10-01 –  
[Aželytė](#) interaction with gut microbiome and factors shaping parasite 2025-09-30

development“

Scientific field: natural sciences (N000) Field of study: Zoology (N014)

Elena Platonova Thesis topic: „Avian haemosporidian parasites: factors influencing the transmission of tropical species in temperate zone“ 2017-10-01 – 2022-01-20

**Supervision of bachelor and master students:**

Justė Aželytė	Master's thesis: "Avian malaria parasite <i>Plasmodium relictum</i> : a new protocol for distinguishing morphologically identical parasites and the influence of infection intensity on sporogony" (VU GMC, Biodiversity study programme)	2019 – 2022
Indrė Sabaliauskienė	Bachelor thesis: "Investigation of hemosporidian parasites (Hemosporida) infecting birds in the northern regions of Palearctic" (VU GMC, Molecular Biology study programme)	2016 – 2020
Stepan Avdevič	Bachelor thesis: "Development of single and double infections of <i>Plasmodium relictum</i> (Haemosporida) in experimentally infected canaries" (VU GMC, Biology study programme)	2016 – 2019
Justė Aželytė	Bachelor thesis: "Morphological description of the genetic lineages pWW12 and pWW4 of avian malaria parasites ( <i>Plasmodium</i> ; Haemosporida) and determination of the effect on the experimentally infected host" (VU GMC, Biology study programme)	2016 – 2019
Adomas Lekavičius	Bachelor thesis: "Diversity and distribution of blood parasites (Haemosporida) of passerines (Passeriformes) in the Palearctic region" (VU GMC, Biology study programme)	2015 – 2018
Paulius Rapševičius	Bachelor thesis: "Studies on the diversity of avian haemosporidian parasite species and species genetic lineages" (VU GMC, Molecular Biology study programme)	2014 – 2017
Dovilė Murauskaitė	Master's thesis: "Detection and identification of mixed infections of avian malaria and other haemosporidian parasites (Haemosporida: Plasmodiidae, Haemoproteidae)" (VU GMF, Genetics study programme)	2013– 2015
Mikas Ilgūnas	Master's thesis: "Experimental studies on the development of <i>Plasmodium homocircumflexum</i> (genetic line pCOLL4) in birds and mosquitoes" (VU GMF, Zoology study programme)	2013– 2015
Dovilė Bukauskaitė	Master's thesis: "Study of the development of haemosporidian parasites ( <i>Haemoproteus</i> , <i>Plasmodium</i> ) in vectors and vertebrate hosts" (GMF, VU GMF, Biodiversity study programme)	2012– 2014
Vilius Armalis	Bachelor thesis: "Developmental dynamics of co-infection with <i>Plasmodium relictum</i> and <i>Plasmodium ashfordi</i> and the effect on haematocrit, reticulocytes and weight of experimentally infected siskins" (LEU GMTF, Biodiversity study programme)	2011– 2013

**OTHERS**

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**Organization of international conferences:**

2021 9<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Lithuania Parasitology

2019	8 <sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology	Denmark
2017	7 <sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology	Latvia
2016	3 <sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife	Bulgaria
2016	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Laboratory Animals in Research	Lithuania
2013	International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife	Lithuania
2010	1 <sup>st</sup> Nordic Malaria Conference	Sweden
2006	Avian Malaria Symposium	Sweden

***Other professional activities:***

From 2022	Chair of the Committee of Early Career Researchers at the Nature Research Centre
From 2022	Member of the Council of the Baltic Association for Laboratory Animal Science
From 2020	Member of the Scientific Council of the Nature Research Centre
From 2018	Member of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
From 2017	Vice President of the Scandinavian and Baltic Parasitological Society
From 2016	Chairman of the Animal Welfare Council of the Nature Research Centre
2014-2022	Member of the Doctoral Studies Committee of the Nature Research Centre
From 2005	Member of the European Federation of Parasitologists and the World Federation of Parasitologists