

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal information:

Family name, First name: **PALINAUSKAS, VAIDAS**

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Professional experience:

2022-present: Chief Researcher, P.B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania.

2010-2022: Senior Researcher, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania.

2009-2010: Junior Researcher, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Education:

2005-2009 Ph.D. studies in Zoology, Institute of Ecology, Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania.

2003-2005 Master studies in Ecology, Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania.

1999-2003 Bachelor studies in Biology, Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Main research grants:

2025-2028. Research Council of Lithuania. Avian malaria transmission: Exploring the impact of natural antibodies in birds on vector competence. Award No S-MIP-25-42. **Project leader.**

2024-2027. Research Council of Lithuania. Experimental study of avian malaria co-infections in blood sucking vectors. Award No S-MIP-24-85. **Main implementer.**

2023-2027. European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action Wildlife Malaria Network (WIMANET) No CA22108. **Management committee member.**

2022-2025. Research Council of Lithuania. Natural anti- α -Gal antibodies and the protection against avian malaria. Award No S-MIP-22-52. **Project leader.**

2022-2024. Research Council of Lithuania. How changes in biodiversity change biodiversity: long-term trends in freshwater invertebrates as vectors of haemosporidian parasites. Award No of Post-Doc S-PD-22-72. **Project leader.**

2020-2022. Research Council of Lithuania. Investigation of factors limiting the spread of avian haemosporidian infections. Award No S-MIP-20-25. **Main implementer.**

2017-2021. European Research Council. Immunity in Ecology and Evolution: 'Hidden' costs of disease, immune function and their consequences for Darwinian fitness. No 742646. **Investigator.**

2017-2022. Research Council of Lithuania. European Union Structural Funds Virulence of avian malaria: untangling genetic players for infection severity. Award No 09.3.3-LMT-K-712-01-0016. **Project leader.**

2015-2018. Research Council of Lithuania. Development of vector-borne mixed blood infections and their effect on host fitness. Award No MIP-038/2015. **Project leader.**

2013-2018. Wellcome Trust/India Alliance grant. Altitudinal gradient in vector-mediated blood parasites across Western Himalayan birds. Award No IA/S/12/2/500629. **Main implementer.**

2011-2015. Global Grant. Mechanisms of speciation in malaria parasites and related haemosporidians. Award No VPI-3.1.-ŠMM-07-K-01-047. **Main implementer.**

Conference and scientific events organization:

2025 Lithuania: Org. Committee Chair, COST Action WIMANET Workshop and Summer School, Vilnius;

2023 Estonia: Org. Committee Member, 10th Symposium of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (SBSP), Tartu;

2021 Lithuania: Org. Committee Chair, 9th Symposium of the SBSP, Vilnius;
2019 Denmark: Org. Committee Member, 8th Symposium of the SBSP, Copenhagen;
2017 Latvia: Org. Committee Member, 7th Symposium of the SBSP, Riga;
2016 Bulgaria: Org. Committee Member, 3rd International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Arbanasi;
2016 Lithuania: Org. Committee Member, 20th Conference on Laboratory Animals in Research;
2013 Lithuania: Org. Committee Member, International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Vilnius;
2010 Sweden: Org. Committee Member, 1st Nordic Malaria Conference, Lund;
2006 Sweden: Org. Committee Member, Avian Malaria Symposium, Lund;
2005 Lithuania: Org. Committee Member, 1st Symposium of the SBSP, Vilnius.

Bachelor, Master and Ph.D. student supervision:

Bachelor students: Audinga Janulytė, Aurelija Krumplevskaja, Nedas Jedinkus, Viltė Sutkaitytė, Vilius Armalis, Indrė Girdžiūžaitė, Egidijus Kinderis, Paulius Rapševičius, Justė Aželytė, Stepan Avdevič, Adomas Lekavičius

Master students: Mikas Ilgūnas, Justė Aželytė, Dovilė Bukauskaitė, Dovile Murauskaitė

PhD students: Elena Platonova (2018-2022), Justė Aželytė (2021-2025).

Postdoc supervision:

Nathan Jay Baker (2022-2024).

Scholarships, awards, and recognitions:

Awarded to the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (2019)

Training award for researchers from Nihon University, Japan (2014).

Lithuanian Academy of Sciences scholarship for Young Scientist Research (2011, 2014).

Training award for researchers from the Malaria Research Coordination Network, USA (2011).

Lithuanian Academy of Sciences award for Young Scientist Research cycle (2010).

Scholarship from the Swedish Institute (VISBY program 2006-2007).

Award for the best presentation of Young Scientist at the 3rd CSBSP (2009).

Scholarship from the Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation (2006-2009).

External professional activities:

Member and President (2022) of Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (2019 – 2022);

Founder and Chair of The Nature Research Centre Early Career Researchers Committee (2022 – 2023);

Vice Chair (2020-2024) and member of the Scientific Council of Nature Research Centre (2025 – present);

Vice President (2015 – 2023) and member of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (2015 – present);

Chairperson of The Animal Welfare Council, Nature Research Centre (2016 – present);

Revision Commission member of the Baltic Laboratory Animal Science Association (2011 – present);

Member of the PhD Degree Commission, Nature Research Centre (2014 – 2023);

Member of the European Ornithologists' Union (2015 – present);

Member of the European and World Federation of Parasitologists (2005 – present);

Member of the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers (2009 – 2016);

Member of the Lithuanian Society of Researchers (2016 – present).

Invited presentations and participation in Ph.D. defence:

Member of Ph.D. defence committee at the Vilnius University/Nature Research Centre (2025);

Plenary Presentation at the 157th German Ornithologists' Society Conference, Austria (2024);

Plenary Presentation at the 82nd International Scientific Conference of the University of Latvia, Latvia (2024);

Keynote presentation at the 13th Multicolloquium of Parasitology, Serbia (2021);

Member of Ph.D. defence committee at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain (2016);

Member of Ph.D. defence committee at the National University of Colombia, Colombia (2016);

Opponent of dissertation at the Vilnius University/Nature Research Centre (2011);

Keynote presentation at the 10th conference of the European Ornithologists' Union, Spain (2015).

Invited lectures, seminars, and consultations:

France: Invited Lecture at the National Centre for Scientific Research in Montpellier (2025);

United Kingdom: Invited Lecture at Keele University for Life Sciences Department Researchers (2025);

Czechia: Teacher at the Summer School for young researchers under COST Action, Mohelno (2024);

Latvia: Consultations at the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment, Riga (2019);

Russia: Lectures at the Biological station "Rybachy", Kaliningrad (2019-2010);

Sweden: Consultations and lectures on avian parasites, Lund University, Lund (2023, 2019, 2018, 2014);

Lithuania: Seminars about parasites and academic careers for children for schools (2019-2023);

Colombia: Seminars and consultations for students and young researchers about scientific associations, ethics, paper writing, and avian haemosporidian parasites at the National University of Colombia (2018);

Lithuania: Lecture about avian parasites for students from Utrecht University, the Netherlands (2017);

Lithuania: Lecture at the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences about genomics malaria, Vilnius (2017);

India: Lecture and consultations on taxonomy of haemosporidians and methods for researchers and students at the Centre of Ecological Sciences of the Indian Institute of Science (2015);

Estonia: Lecture and seminar at the Tartu University (2011, 2010);

France: Lectures at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement IRD, Montpellier (2010);

Spain: Consultations for young researchers at the Extremadura University, Badajoz (2007).

Reviews of the project proposals and papers in scientific journals:

Projects: Czech Science Foundation (Czechia), Marsden Fund (New Zealand), Lithuanian Science Council (Lithuania).

Papers: PLoS ONE, Biology Letters, Global Change Biology, Proceeding of the Royal Society B, Parasitology, Infection, Genetics and Evolution, Oecologia, Experimental Parasitology, International Journal for Parasitology, Journal of Avian Biology, Journal of Parasitology, Journal of Ornithology, Parasitology International, Open Veterinary Journal, Folia Parasitologia, Veterinary Parasitology, Parasitology Research, IBIS, Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

Scientific publications (since 2007)

95 publications in journals from peer-reviewed master journals list (WOS): Nature Ecology & Evolution, Biology Reviews, PLoS ONE, Microbiome, Genomics, Malaria Journal, The American Naturalist, Gene, Molecular Ecology Resources, Molecular Ecology, Ecography, Trends in Parasitology, Genome Biology and Evolution, Journal of Evolutionary Biology, International Journal for Parasitology, Frontiers in Immunology, Parasites and Vectors, etc.

Professional activities in business (since 2023)

The shareholder of the mXp startup, which was recognized as DeepTech by BPIFrance, and which specializes in innovative microbial solutions for health and sustainable food production. The primary role includes coordinating and managing research contracts with scientific institutions and industrial companies, negotiating for patented technologies, and representing the startup within the acceleration ecosystem. As a shareholder of the startup, I participated in Genopole's Business Acceleration program and the Gene.iO start-up acceleration program.