

# Petras Prakas

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION AND ACADEMICAL DEGREE

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- 2007 – 2011 **PhD degree in Biomedical Sciences (Ecology and Environmental Science, 03B).** PhD thesis “Diversity and ecology of *Sarcocystis* in Lithuanian game fauna” defended on 21 December 2011 in the Ecology and Environmental Research Council of Vilnius University and Nature Research Centre. Thesis was prepared in the Laboratory of Molecular Ecology, Nature Research Centre. Supervisor dr. (hp) Dalius Butkauskas. **Field of research:** Molecular Ecology, Genetics, Parasitology, Phylogeny, Taxonomy, Ornithology, Teriology.
- 2005 – 2007 **MSc in Microbiology** program in Vilnius University. Thesis “Investigation of the phylogenetic relationships of *Sarcocystis* spp. found in birds using 18S and 28S rRNA gene partial sequences”. Thesis was prepared in the Laboratory of Population Genetics of VU Ecology Institute. Supervisor dr. (hp) Dalius Butkauskas. **Field of research:** Parasitology, Genetics, Phylogeny.
- 2001 – 2005 **BSc in Molecular Biology** program in Vilnius University. Thesis “Evaluation of genetic structure of Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) population breeding in Lithuania based on application of microsatellite primers developed for taxonomically close bird species”. Thesis was prepared in the Laboratory of Population Genetics of VU Ecology Institute. Supervisor dr. (hp) Dalius Butkauskas. **Field of research:** Population Genetics, Conservation Genetics, Ornithology.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2021 – till now **Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Molecular Ecology.**  
Position hold: **Chief researcher**  
Activities: Scientific work, implementation and management of scientific projects, scientific leader for students during preparation of bachelor's, master's and PhD thesis, work in PhD board
- 2012 – 2020 **Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Molecular Ecology.**  
Position hold: Senior researcher  
Activities: Scientific work, implementation and management of scientific projects, scientific leader for students during preparation of bachelor's, master's and PhD thesis.
- 2014 – till now **Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Institute of Biology Systems and Genetics**  
Position hold: associate professor.  
Activities: development of study courses, conducting lectures, laboratory practices, seminar, computer practices, and exams. Programs prepared for bachelor students of “Medical and Veterinary Genetics” programme – “Population genetics” and “Ecological genetics”.
- 2010 – 2012 **Nature Research Centre, Laboratory of Molecular Ecology.**  
Position hold: biologists.  
Activities: Scientific work, participation in scientific projects.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**The goal of ongoing research** is to investigate the genetic, morphological and ecological characteristics of foodborne parasites found in animals and to assess the genetic variation and structure of animal populations in the context of biodiversity, one health concept and environmental protection.

**Research includes** the identification of parasites of the genus *Sarcocystis* and development of diagnostic methods in various samples: muscle, brain and blood of intermediate hosts, small intestines of definitive hosts and environmental samples. The ecological, morphological and genetic characteristics of parasites found in wild and domestic birds and mammals are also evaluated during the research, and new species are described. Another task is the evaluation of the genetic variability of fish and bird populations, the determination of the genetic structure and the identification of evolutionarily significant and management units in the context of environmental management.

**The field of scientific interests** includes Parasitology, Population Genetics, Taxonomy, Phylogeny, Conservation Genetics, Bioinformatics, and Molecular Biology.

**Applied methods:** light and electron microscopy, isolation of DNA from various biological sources (blood, liver, muscle, scales, hair, feathers, environmental samples, microscopic cysts, etc.), PCR-RFLP, selection of species-, genus-, and family-specific oligonucleotides for PCR research, various types of PCR, microsatellite analysis, purification of PCR products, sequencing, statistical tests, analysis of DNA sequences and genotypes of microsatellite loci assessing intraspecific and interspecific genetic variability, statistical analysis of population genetic structure.

## PUBLICATIONS

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

1. **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., Vaišvilienė, J., Balčiauskienė, L., & Balčiauskas, L. (2022). The Spatial pattern of the two genetic lineages of the field vole in Lithuania. *Diversity*, 14(10), 1-13. doi:10.3390/d14100820. **Q2**
2. Marandykina-Prakienė, A., Butkauskas, D., Gudiškis, N., Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E., Januškevičius, V., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., & **Prakas, P.** (2022). Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* species in sheep from Lithuania. *Animals*, 12(16), 1-13. doi:10.3390/ani12162048 **Q1**
3. Strazdaitė Žiilienė, Ž., Baranauskaitė, A., Butkauskas, D., Servienė, E., & **Prakas, P.** (2022). Molecular identification of parasitic protozoa *Sarcocystis* in water samples. *Veterinary sciences*, 9(8), 1-13. doi:10.3390/vetsci9080412 **Q2**
4. Šneideris, D., Stalpes, M., Butkauskas, D., & **Prakas, P.** (2022). A novel RFLP method for identification of morphologically similar avian *Sarcocystis* species. *Parasitology research*, 121(7), 2161-2166. doi:10.1007/s00436-022-07553-0 **Q3**
5. Sato, A. P., Da Silva, T. C. E., De Pontes, T. P., Sanches, A. W. D., **Prakas, P.**, & Locatelli-Dittrich, R. (2022). Molecular characterization of *Sarcocystis* spp. in seabirds from southern Brazil. *Parasitology international*, 90, 1-8. doi:10.1016/j.parint.2022.102595 **Q3**
6. Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Jasiulionis, M., Balčiauskas, L., Butkauskas, D., Prakas, P., & Stirkė, V. (2022). Morphological and molecular description of *Sarcocystis myodes* n. sp. from the Bank Vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*) in Lithuania. *Biology*, 11(4), 1-11. doi:10.3390/biology11040512 **Q1**

7. Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E., Butkauskas, D., Švažas, S., & **Prakas, P.** (2022). Investigations on *Sarcocystis* species in the leg muscles of the bird family Corvidae in Lithuania. *Parasitology research*, 121(2), 703-711. doi:10.1007/s00436-021-07409-z **Q3**
8. Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., **Prakas, P.**, & Butkauskas, D. (2021). Molecular identification of seven *Sarcocystis* species in red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) from Lithuania. *Parasitology international*, 85, 1-5. doi:10.1016/j.parint.2021.102419 **Q3**
9. Köster, P. C., Renelies-Hamilton, J., Dotras, L., Llana, M., Vinagre-Izquierdo, C., **Prakas, P.**, Šneideris, D., Dashti, A., Bailo, B., Lanza, M., Jiménez-Mejías, A., Muñoz-García, C., Muadica, A. S., González-Barrio, D., Rubio, J. M., Fuentes, I., Ponce-Gordo, F., Calero-Bernal, R., & Carmena, D. (2021). Molecular detection and characterization of intestinal and blood parasites in wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) in Senegal. *Animals*, vol. 11(iss. 11), 1-23. doi:10.3390/ani11113291 **Q1**
10. Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E., Švažas, S., Šneideris, D., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Butkauskas, D., & **Prakas, P.** (2021). The role of birds of the family Corvidae in transmitting *Sarcocystis* protozoan parasites. *Animals*, 11(11), 1-11. doi:10.3390/ani11113258 **Q1**
11. Delgado-De Las Cuevas, G. E., **Prakas, P.**, Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., García-Gil, M. L., Martínez-González, M., Butkauskas, D., Mowery, J. D., Dubey, J. P., Habela, M. A., & Calero-Bernal, R. (2021). First description of *Sarcocystis* species infecting Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*). *Parasitology research*, 120(8), 2881-2886. doi:10.1007/s00436-021-07239-z **Q3**
12. **Prakas, P.**, Bea, A., Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E., Olano, I., Villanúa, D., Švažas, S., & Butkauskas, D. (2021). Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis halioti* in the muscles of two species of birds of prey from Spain. *Parasites & Vectors*, 14(1), 1-7. doi:10.1186/s13071-021-04921-0 **Q1**
13. **Prakas, P.**, Rehbein, S., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., & Butkauskas, D. (2021). Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* species in diaphragm muscle tissue of European mouflon (*Ovis gmelini musimon*) from Austria. *Parasitology research*, 120(7), 2695-2702. doi:10.1007/s00436-021-07212-w **Q3**
14. **Prakas, P.**, Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Šneideris, D., & Butkauskas, D. (2021). Invasive American mink (*Neovison vison*) as potential definitive host of *Sarcocystis elongata*, *S. entzerothi*, *S. japonica*, *S. truncata* and *S. silva* using different cervid species as intermediate hosts. *Parasitology research*, 120(6), 2243-2250. doi:10.1007/s00436-021-07180-1 **Q3**
15. **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., Švažas, S., Bea, A., Yanenko, V., Ragauskas, A., & Vaitkuvienė, D. (2021). The genetic diversity and structure of the European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*. *Animals*, 11(5), 1-10. doi:10.3390/ani11051283 **Q1**
16. **Prakas, P.**, Balčiauskas, L., Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E., & Butkauskas, D. (2021). The role of mustelids in the transmission of *Sarcocystis* spp. using cattle as intermediate hosts. *Animals*, 11(3), 1-10. doi:10.3390/ani11030822 **Q1**
17. **Prakas, P.**, Kirillova, V., Dzerkale, A., Kirjušina, M., Butkauskas, D., Gavarāne, I., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., & Šulinskas, G. (2020). First molecular characterization of *Sarcocystis miescheriana* in wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) from Latvia. *Parasitology research*, 119(11), 3777-3783. doi:10.1007/s00436-020-06882-2 **Q2**

18. **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., & Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E. (2020). Molecular and morphological description of *Sarcocystis kutkienae* sp. nov. from the common raven (*Corvus corax*). *Parasitology research*, *119*(2), 4205-4210. doi:10.1007/s00436-020-06941-8 **Q2**
19. Butkauskas, D., Bea, A., Yanenko, V., **Prakas, P.**, Švažas, S., & Vaitkuvienė, D. (2020). Mtdna d-loop genetic diversity of common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) migrating through Ukraine and Spain. *Turkish journal of zoology*, *44*(5), 477-480. doi:10.3906/zoo-2004-47 **Q4**
20. **Prakas, P.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Januškevičius, V., Chiesa, F., Baranauskaitė, A., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Servienė, E., Petkevičius, S., & Butkauskas, D. (2020). Molecular identification of four *Sarcocystis* species in cattle from Lithuania, including *S. hominis*, and development of a rapid molecular detection method: research. *Parasites & vectors*, *13*(1), 1-9. doi:10.1186/s13071-020-04473-9 **Q1**
21. Šneideris, D., Ivanauskas, A., **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., Treikale, O., Kadžienė, G., Rasiukevičiūtė, N., Kelpšienė, J., & Supronienė, S. (2020). Population Structure of *Fusarium graminearum* Isolated from Different Sources in One Area over the Course of Three Years. *Phytopathology*, Vol. *110*(No. 7), 1312-1318. doi:10.1094/PHYTO-08-19-0298-R **Q1**
22. Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Delgado De Las Cuevas, G. E., **Prakas, P.**, Calero-Bernal, R., Martínez-González, M., Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Servienė, E., Habela, M. A., & Butkauskas, D. (2020). *Sarcocystis* spp. diversity in the roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) from Lithuania and Spain. *Parasitology research*, *119*(4), 1363-1370. doi:10.1007/s00436-020-06603-9 **Q2**
23. Ragauskas, A., Butkauskas, D., **Prakas, P.**, Gadliauskienė, K., Gajduchenko, H., & Grauda, D. (2020). Complex phylogeographic relationships among the Eurasian perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) populations in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea Region. *Hydrobiologia*, *847*(3), 925-938. doi:10.1007/s10750-019-04156-2 **Q2**
24. **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., & Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E. (2020). Molecular identification of four *Sarcocystis* species in the herring gull, *Larus argentatus*, from Lithuania. *Parasites and vectors*, *13*(1), 45-58. doi:10.1186/s13071-019-3869-x **Q1**
25. Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., **Prakas, P.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Servienė, E., Januškevičius, V., & Butkauskas, D. (2020). Molecular identification of two *Sarcocystis* species in fallow deer (*Dama dama*) from Lithuania: short communication. *Parasitology International*, *75*, 1-4. doi:10.1016/j.parint.2019.102044 **Q3**
26. Butkauskas, D., Švažas, S., Bea, A., **Prakas, P.**, Olano, I., Grishanov, G., Mischenko, A., Kozulin, A., Stanevičius, V., Báldi, A., Huysentruyt, F., Vaitkuvienė, D., & Red'Kin, Y. (2019). Designation of flyways and genetic structure of Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* in Europe and Morocco. *European journal of wildlife research*, *65*(6), 1-11. doi:10.1007/s10344-019-1336-9 **Q2**
27. Delgado De Las Cuevas, G. E., **Prakas, P.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Martínez-González, M., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Butkauskas, D., Servienė, E., Habela, M. A., & Calero-Bernal, R. (2019). *Sarcocystis morae* (Apicomplexa) in fallow deer (*Dama dama*) from Spain: ultrastructure and new host record. *Journal of parasitology*, *105*(5), 813-815. doi:10.1645/19-56 **Q4**

28. **Prakas, P.**, Kirillova, V., Gavarāne, I., Grāvele, E., Butkauskas, D., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., & Kirjušina, M. (2019). Morphological and molecular description of *Sarcocystis rattii* n. sp. from the black rat (*Rattus rattus*) in Latvia. *Parasitology research*, *118*(9), 2689-2694. doi:10.1007/s00436-019-06393-9 **Q3**
29. **Prakas, P.**, Kirillova, V., Calero-Bernal, R., Kirjušina, M., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Habela, M. Á., Gavarāne, I., & Butkauskas, D. (2019). *Sarcocystis* species identification in the moose (*Alces alces*) from the Baltic States. *Parasitology research*, *118*(5), 1601-1608. doi:10.1007/s00436-019-06291-0 **Q3**
30. Januskevicius, V., Januskeviciene, G., **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., & Petkevičius, S. (2019). Prevalence and intensity of *Sarcocystis* spp. infection in animals slaughtered for food in Lithuania: original paper. *Veterinárni medicína*, *64*(4), 149-157. doi:10.17221/151/2017-VETMED **Q3**
31. **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., Švažas, S., & Stanevičius, V. (2018). Morphological and genetic characterisation of *Sarcocystis halioti* from the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). *Parasitology research*, *117*(11), 3663-3667. doi:10.1007/s00436-018-6083-4 **Q2**
32. **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., Švažas, S., Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E., & Stanevičius, V. (2018). Morphologic and genetic identification of *Sarcocystis fulicae* n. sp. (Apicomplexa: Sarcocystidae) from the eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*). *Journal of wildlife diseases*, *54*(4), 765-771. doi:10.7589/2017-11-279 **Q2**
33. **Prakas, P.**, Strazdaitė-Žielienė, Ž., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Servienė, E., & Butkauskas, D. (2018). Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis lutrae* (Apicomplexa: Sarcocystidae) in muscles of five species of the family Mustelidae. *Parasitology research*, *117*(6), 1989-1993. doi:10.1007/s00436-018-5880-0 **Q2**
34. Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., Kutkienė, L., Vepškaitė-Monstavičė, I., & Servienė, E. (2018). Morphological and molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* spp. from the sika deer (*Cervus nippon*), including two new species *Sarcocystis frondea* and *Sarcocystis nipponi*. *Parasitology research*, *117*(5), 1305-1315. doi:10.1007/s00436-018-5816-8 **Q2**
35. Kirillova, V., **Prakas, P.**, Calero-Bernal, R., Gavarane, I., Fernández-García, J. L., Martínez-González, M., Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Martínez-Estélez, M. Á. H., Butkauskas, D., & Kirjušina, M. (2018). Identification and genetic characterization of *Sarcocystis arctica* and *Sarcocystis lutrae* in red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) from Baltic States and Spain. *Parasites and vectors*, *11*(1), 299-304. doi:10.1186/s13071-018-2694-y **Q1**
36. **Prakas, P.**, Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., Butkauskas, D., & Kutkienė, L. (2017). *Sarcocystis entzerothi* n. sp. from the European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). *Parasitology research*, *116*(1), 271-279. doi:10.1007/s00436-016-5288-7 **Q2**
37. **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., Rudaitytė, E., Kutkienė, L., Sruoga, A., & Pūraitė, I. (2016). Morphological and molecular characterization of *Sarcocystis taeniata* and *Sarcocystis pilosa* n. sp. from the sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) in Lithuania. *Parasitology research*, *115*(8), 3021-3032. doi:10.1007/s00436-016-5057-7 **Q2**
38. **Prakas, P.**, Liaugaudaitė, S., Kutkienė, L., Sruoga, A., & Švažas, S. (2015). Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis rileyi* sporocysts in red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and raccoon dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in Lithuania. *Parasitology research*, *114*(5), 1671-1676. doi:10.1007/s00436-015-4348-8 **Q2**

39. **Prakas, P.**, Oksanen, A., Butkauskas, D., Sruoga, A., Kutkienė, L., Švažas, S., Isomursu, M., & Liaugaudaitė, S. (2014). Identification and intraspecific genetic diversity of *Sarcocystis rileyi* from ducks, *Anas* spp., in Lithuania and Finland. *The journal of parasitology*, 100(5), 657-661. doi:10.1645/13-395.1 **Q3**
40. **Prakas, P.**, Kutkienė, L., Butkauskas, D., Sruoga, A., & Žalakevičius, M. (2014). Description of *Sarcocystis lari* sp n. (Apicomplexa: Sarcocystidae) from the great black-backed gull, *Larus marinus* (Charadriiformes: Laridae), on the basis of cyst morphology and molecular data. *Folia parasitologica*, 61(1), 11-17. **Q3**
41. **Prakas, P.**, Kutkienė, L., Butkauskas, D., Sruoga, A., & Žalakevičius, M. (2013). Molecular and morphological investigations of *Sarcocystis corvusi* sp. nov. from the jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*). *Parasitology research*, 112(3). doi:10.1007/s00436-012-3247-5 **Q2**
42. Kutkienė, L., **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., & Sruoga, A. (2012). Description of *Sarcocystis turdusi* sp. nov. from the common blackbird (*Turdus merula*). *Parasitology*, 139(11), 1438-1443. doi:10.1017/S0031182012000819 **Q2**
43. Kutkienė, L., **Prakas, P.**, Sruoga, A., & Butkauskas, D. (2012). Description of *Sarcocystis anasi* sp. nov. and *Sarcocystis albifronsi* sp. nov. in birds of the order Anseriformes. *Parasitology research*, vol. 110(iss. 2), 1043-1046. doi:10.1007/s00436-011-2588-9 **Q2**
44. Švažas, S., Chukalova, N., Grishanov, G., Pūtys, Ž., Sruoga, A., Butkauskas, D., Raudonikis, L., & **Prakas, P.** (2011). The Role of great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) for fish stock and dispersal of helminthes parasites in the Curonian Lagoon area. *Veterinarija ir zootechnika*, 55, 79-85 **Q4**
45. **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D., Sruoga, A., Švažas, S., & Kutkienė, L. (2011). Identification of *Sarcocystis columbae* in wood pigeons (*Columba palumbus*) in Lithuania. *Veterinarija ir zootechnika*, 55(77), 33-39 **Q4**
46. **Prakas, P.**, Kutkienė, L., Sruoga, A., & Butkauskas, D. (2011). *Sarcocystis* sp. from the herring gull (*Larus argentatus*) identity to *Sarcocystis wobeseri* based on cyst morphology and DNA results. *Parasitology research*, 109(6), 1603-1608. doi:10.1007/s00436-011-2421-5 **Q2**
47. Kutkienė, L., **Prakas, P.**, Sruoga, A., & Butkauskas, D. (2011). Identification of *Sarcocystis rileyi* from the mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in Europe: cyst morphology and results of DNA analysis. *Parasitology research*, 108(3), 709-714. doi:10.1007/s00436-010-2117-2 **Q2**
48. Kutkienė, L., **Prakas, P.**, Sruoga, A., & Butkauskas, D. (2010). The mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) as intermediate host for *Sarcocystis wobeseri* sp. nov. from the barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*). *Parasitology research*, 107(4), 879-888. doi:10.1007/s00436-010-1945-4 **Q2**
49. Kutkienė, L., **Prakas, P.**, Sruoga, A., & Butkauskas, D. (2009). *Sarcocystis* in the birds family Corvidae with description of *Sarcocystis cornixi* sp. nov. from the hooded crow (*Corvus cornix*). *Parasitology research*, 104(2), 329-336. doi:10.1007/s00436-008-1196-9 **Q3**

#### **Science dissemination publications:**

Švažas, S., **Prakas, P.**, Butkauskas, D. ir Vaitkuvienė, D. (2021). The European turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) is a rapidly declining bird species in Lithuania. *Birds*, 2, 8-11. [M.kr.: N 012]

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

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- 2021 – 2023 **Scientific leader.** Based on mean 09.3.3-LMT-K-712 "Education of scientific competences of scientists, other researchers and students through practical research" project „The effect of increasing cold on the dynamics of polyamine biosynthesis in winter oilseed rape and the scope its control“. Founded by the Research Council of Lithuania.
- 2017 – 2020 **Scientific leader.** Project of the young group of scientists „Investigation into diversity of *Sarcocystis* species from cervids and cattle“. Founded by the Research Council of Lithuania.
- 2013 – 2015 **Scientific leader.** Project of group of scientists „Investigations into genus *Sarcocystis* parasites from birds order Anseriformes“. Founded by the Research Council of Lithuania.
- 2013 **Scientific leader.** Project of students' scientific practise “Intraspecific genetic diversity and molecular identification of possible definitive hosts of *Sarcocystis rileyi* parasites forming macrocysts in muscles of ducks“. Founded by the Research Council of Lithuania.
- 2020 – 2022 **Implementer.** Project of group of scientists “Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* parasites in definitive hosts and environmental water samples”. Founded by the Research Council of Lithuania.
- 2010 – 2012 **Implementer.** Lithuania-Latvia-Taiwan cooperation project "Assessment of the impact of the operation of the nuclear power plant on the perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) population based on genetic and fish otoliths - natural fixators of environmental contamination with radionuclides and thermal pollution". Founded by the Research Council of Lithuania.
- 2010 – 2011 **Implementer.** Research program project "Invasive bird species spread, genetic diversity, adaptation and naturalization studies". Founded by the Research Council of Lithuania.

## **PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES**

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### ***International scientific conferences:***

1. Maziliauskaitė E., Butkauskas D., Kirjušina M., Juozaitytė-Ngugu E., **Prakas P.** Molecular Investigations of *Trichinella* spp. in Predators From Mammals From Lithuania. *11th International Conference on Biodiversity Research*. October 21, Daugavpils, Latvia. [https://biodiversityconference.biology.lv/public/conferences/6/AB\\_2022.pdf](https://biodiversityconference.biology.lv/public/conferences/6/AB_2022.pdf)
2. Gudiškis N., Marandykina-Prakienė A., Juozaitytė-Ngugu E., **Prakas P.**, Butkauskas D. Molecular identification of *Sarcocystis* species found in sheep and goats from Lithuania. *11th International Conference on Biodiversity Research*. October 20-21, Daugavpils, Latvia. [https://biodiversityconference.biology.lv/public/conferences/6/AB\\_2022.pdf](https://biodiversityconference.biology.lv/public/conferences/6/AB_2022.pdf)
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13. Juozaitytė-Ngugu, E., Butkauskas D., **Prakas P**. 2021. Investigations of *Sarcocystis* species in muscles of Laridae and Corvidae birds. *9th Conference of the Scandinavian - Baltic Society for Parasitology*. April 21-23, Vilnius, Lithuania. Abstract book: 48. ISBN 978-609-8255-05-8.
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- A. Oksanen, A. Kozulin, M. Janaus, E. Juozaitytė, J. Žebraukaitė. 2016. Investigations of *Sarcocystis* infection in birds of the order Anseriformes. 12th European Multicolloquium of Parasitology, Turku, Finland.
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  50. Švažas S, **Prakas P**, Kutkienė L, Sruoga A, Butkauskas D. 2011. Sarcocysts *Sarcocystis columbae* detected in woodpigeons *Columba palumbus*. XXXth IUGB Congress and Perdix XIII, Barcelona, Spain.
  51. Kutkienė L, **Prakas P**, Butkauskas D, Sruoga A. 2009. *Sarcocystis* spp. in the mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and in the bird family turdididae. The 3rd symposium of the Scandinavian Baltic society for Parasitology, Riga, Latvia.
  52. **Prakas P**, Butkauskas D, Sruoga A, Kutkienė L. 2009. Molecular characterization of *Sarcocystis* spp. from some bird species based on ssu rRNA gene sequence analysis. 5th international conference Research and conservation of biological diversity in Baltic Region, Daugavpils, Latvia.
  53. **Prakas P**. 2009. Molecular investigation of *Sarcocystis* spp. in the birds order Anseriformes. 4th international student conference Biodiversity and functioning of aquatic ecosystems in the Baltic Sea region, Dubingiai, Lithuania.
  54. **Prakas P**, Butkauskas D, Kutkienė L, Sruoga A. 2012. Identification and phylogenetic relationships of *Sarcocystis* species parasitizing wild birds and mammals. V Baltic congress of genetics, Kaunas, Lithuania.

### *National scientific conferences*

1. Rudaitytė-Lukošienė, E., **Prakas, P.**, Strazdaitė-Žiėlienė, Ž., Servienė, E., Butkauskas, D. 2018. *Sarcocystis* parazitų paplitimo Lietuvos elniniuose (Cervidae) tyrimas. *11-oji jaunųjų mokslininkų konferencija Bioateitis: gamtos ir gyvybės mokslų perspektyvos. Gruodžio 14, 2018. Pranešimų santraukos: 7–8.* Vilnius, Lietuva. Internetinė prieiga: [http://www.lma.lt/uploads/2017-12-07\\_BIOATEITIS\\_pranesimu\\_santraukos.pdf](http://www.lma.lt/uploads/2017-12-07_BIOATEITIS_pranesimu_santraukos.pdf)
2. Liaugaudaitė S, **Prakas P.** Makroskopines cistas ančių raumenyse sudarančių *Sarcocystis rileyi* parazitų vidurūšinės genetinės įvairovės tyrimai ir galimų galutinių šeimininkų paieška. Studentų mokslinė praktika 2013. Vilnius, Lietuva.
3. **Prakas P.** 2010. Description of new avian sarcosporidian species and phylogenetic investigations of genus *Sarcocystis*. Conference of young scientists: Bio-future: perspectives of natural and life sciences, Vilnius, Lithuania.

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY PROCESS**

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

Eglė Rudaitytė-Lukošienė	22/09/2022 defended PhD thesis in Natural Sciences, Biology (N010) “ <i>Sarcocystis</i> species richness in members of the family Cervidae”. The doctoral dissertation was prepared in the period of 2016-2020 at Nature Research Centre.	2016 – 2020
Evelina Juozaitytė-Ngugu	"Morphological and genetic diversity of <i>Sarcocystis</i> species parasitizing gulls ( <i>Larus</i> ) and corvids in Lithuania". Natural Sciences, Biology (N010)	2018 – 2022
Tautvilė Šukytė	"Morphological, molecular and histopathological studies of coccidian parasites of the family Sarcocystidae in birds of prey". Natural Sciences, Biology (N010)	2021 – 2025

### ***Scientific consultant:***

Viktorija Kirilova	In 2020 defended PhD thesis “Diversity and description of <i>Sarcocystis</i> spp. detected in wild animal muscles of Latvia“ in Biology (branch Zoology). The doctoral thesis was prepared at University of Daugavpils, Institute of Life Sciences and Technology.	2014 – 2020
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### ***Participation in the dissertation defence council, dissertation review:***

1. In 2022 **member of the dissertation defence council** of Neringa Kitrytė PhD thesis “Diversity of small mammal parasites and factors shaping their communities” (Natural Sciences, Ecology and Environmental Science N012). Dissertation was prepared at Nature Research Centre in 2017 – 2021.
2. In 2020 m. **opponent** of Inga Morozova PhD thesis “The evaluation of disease resistance of flax genetic resources and improving methods” (in Biology, branch of Ecology). Dissertation was prepared at University of Latvia in 2014–2018.
3. In 2020 **member of the dissertation defence council** of Vilma Jeršovienė PhD thesis “Prevalence of human papillomavirus among couples with infertility problems in Lithuania” (Natural Sciences, Biology N010). Dissertation was prepared at Nature Research Centre in 2015 – 2019.
4. In 2020 **member of the dissertation defence council** of Marius Jasiulionis PhD thesis “Impact of the colonies of Great Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) on mammals” (Natural Sciences, Ecology and Environmental Science N012). Dissertation was prepared at Nature Research Centre in 2016 – 2020.

5. In 2020 **member of the dissertation defence council** of Dalytės Mardosaitės-Busaitienės PhD thesis “Prevalence and genetic diversity of vector-borne pathogens in small rodents (Muridae, Cricetidae)” (Natural Sciences, Biology N010). The dissertation was prepared at Vytautas Magnus University in 2016–2020.
6. In 2019 **member of the dissertation defence council** of Žydrūnė Vienažindienė PhD thesis “Evaluation of anthelmintic control of intestinal helminth infections in dogs and its limiting factors” (Agricultural Sciences, Veterinary A002). Dissertation has been prepared at the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Veterinary Academy of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences during the period of 2011–2019.
7. In 2018 **member of the dissertation defence council** of Kristina Morkūnienė PhD thesis “Genomic improvement of cattle dairy and health traits” (Agricultural Sciences, Zootechnics 03A). Dissertation has been prepared at the Veterinary Academy of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences during the period of 2012–2018.
8. In 2018 **reviewer** of Dovilė Bukauskaitė PhD thesis "Avian haemosporidian parasites (Haemosporida): sporogonic development and determination of vectors" Biomedical Sciences, Ecology and Environmental Science 03B). Dissertation was prepared at Nature Research Centre in 2014 – 2018.
9. In 2014 **member of the dissertation defence council** of Gintarė Skyrienė PhD thesis “The distribution, genetic diversity and helminths of alien mammal muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)” (Biomedical Sciences, Ecology and Environmental Science 03B). The dissertation was carried out at Vytautas Magnus University in 2010 – 2014.

#### ***Supervision of bachelor and master students:***

Name Surname	Year of thesis defence, University, study program	Topic	Type
Agnė Baranauskaitė	2021, Vilnius Tech, Bioengineering	Optimization of identification of domestic animals infecting <i>Sarcocystis</i> parasites from water samples	Master
Gediminas Šulinskas	2018, Vilnius University, Genetics	Investigation into genetic diversity of <i>Sarcocystis</i> spp. in wild boar	Master
Evelina Juozaitytė-Nugugu	2017, Vilnius University, Zoology	<i>Sarcocystis</i> species diversity in gulls ( <i>Larus</i> ) and crows ( <i>Corvus</i> )	Master
Eglė Rudaitytė	2016, Vilnius University, Genetics	Genetic diversity and phylogenetic relationships of <i>Sarcocystis</i> spp. parasitizing sika deer ( <i>Cervus nippon</i> )	Master
Evelina Mazilaisukaitė	2022, Vilnius University, Biology	The molecular identification of <i>Trichinella</i> nematodes in samples of wild predators	Bachelor
Paulina Rakauskaitė	2022, Vilnius University, Biology	Detection of <i>Sarcocystis</i> parasites in rodents using molecular methods	Bachelor
Emilija Šiūkšniūtė	2021, Vilnius Tech, Bioengineering	<i>Sarcocystis</i> prevalence in Baltic states aquatic ecosystems	Bachelor
Gabija Babarskaitė	2020, Vilnius University, Biology	Identification of <i>Sarcocystis</i> species in European mouflon ( <i>Ovis aries musimon</i> ) from Austria	Bachelor
Gabija Švenčionytė	2020, Vilnius Tech, Bioengineering	Molecular identification of <i>Sarcocystis</i> spp. in sheep	Bachelor
Monika Bagdanavičiūtė	2020, Vilnius University, Molecular Biology	Identification of morphologically similar <i>Sarcocystis</i> species Using the PCR-RFLP method	Bachelor

Neda Vavilovaitė	2020, Vilnius University, Biology	The prevalence of <i>Sarcocystis</i> intestinal infection in red foxes ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	Bachelor
Kamilė Stražinskaitė	2019, Vilnius University, Genetics	Determination of the diversity of species of <i>Sarcocystis</i> that parasitize <i>Equus caballus</i> using morphological and molecular methods	Bachelor
Akvilė Čalutkaitė	2019, Vilnius University, Genetics	Genetic biodiversity of <i>Sarcocystis</i> species in American Mink ( <i>Neovison vison</i> )	Bachelor
Agnė Baranauskaitė	2019, Vilnius Tech, Bioengineering	Optimization of the molecular identification of <i>Sarcocystis</i> parasites found in bovine	Bachelor
Martyna Motiejūnaitė	2017, Vilnius University, Biology	Diversity of <i>Sarcocystis</i> parasites in the members of family Mustelidae in Lithuania	Bachelor
Norbertas Glušokas	2017, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Medical and Veterinary Genetics	<i>Sarcocystis</i> species molecular identification in the meat of cattle	Bachelor
Evelina Juozaitytė	2015, Vilnius University, Biology	Diversity of <i>Sarcocystis</i> species forming microcyst in birds order Anseriformes	Bachelor
Justa Žebrauskaitė	2015, Vilnius University, Molecular Biology	Identification and phylogeny of avian <i>Sarcocystis</i> species applying gene sequence analysis of <i>cox1</i> and <i>rpoB</i>	Bachelor
Simona Liaugaudaitė	2014, Vilnius University, Molecular Biology	Investigations into genetic diversity and possible definitive hosts of <i>Sarcocystis rileyi</i> parasites	Bachelor

## **OTHERS**

### ***Awards:***

2021 – till now	Member of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
2021	Guest speaker at the conference: "Apicomplexa Virtual Meeting, February 18, 2021, Diagnosis of apicomplexan parasites"
2016	Supervisor of Eglė Rudaitytė's master's thesis which was awarded "the best of 2016". master of biomedical sciences works in Lithuania"
2012 – 2013	Laureate of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences scholarship for young scientists
2010	Diploma of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences for the best 2010 report of the conference of young scientists "Biofuture: perspectives of nature and life sciences"

### ***Expert activity:***

2022 – till now	The member of the council of PhD program Ecology and Environmental Science N012 at Nature Research Centre
2022 – till now	Member of editorial board of MDPI Parasitologia journal <a href="https://www.mdpi.com/journal/parasitologia/editors">https://www.mdpi.com/journal/parasitologia/editors</a>
2014 – till now	Member of expert committee of Lithuanian Young Researchers Organization. Expert in competition of the best Master thesis and best PhD thesis
2016 – 2018	<b>External reviewer of projects</b> founded by "National Science Centre", Poland

**Review of scientific papers:**

**Reviewer of 81 scientific manuscripts**, submitted journals having an impact factor in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science database *Parasites and Vectors, International Journal for Parasitology, Parasitology, Transboundary and Emerging Diseases, Infection Genetics and Evolution, Parasitology Research, Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases, BMC Veterinary, MDPI Viruses, MDPI Vaccines, MDPI Animals, International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife, MDPI International Journal of Molecular Sciences, MDPI Future Pharmacology, MDPI Microorganisms, MDPI Pharmaceutics, MDPI Molecules, Experimental Parasitology, Frontiers in Microbiology, Journal of Parasitology, Acta Parasitologica, Scientific Reports, Revista Brasileira de Parasitologia Veterinária, Pakistan Veterinary Journal, Veterinary Parasitology: Regional Studies and Reports, Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bioscience Reports, Molecular Biology Reports, Biologia, Molecular & Biochemical Parasitology, Folia Parasitologica, Journal of food Quality, Bulgarian Journal of Veterinary Medicine, Mitochondrial DNA Part B: Resources)*