

Milena Leseva



Growing up, Milena Leseva spent a few of her childhood years in New York City. After returning home to Sofia, Bulgaria, she developed a fascination with living organisms and decided to pursue biology. She now holds a bachelor's degree in biotechnology and a master's in cell biology and pathology from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. In addition to her coursework, Milena has been a participant in Professor George Miloshev's research group at the Institute of Molecular Biology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

It has been twenty years since Milena left the United States, but thanks to her International Fulbright Science and Technology Award, she has returned to pursue her Ph.D. in the Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Her current scientific interests lie in the fields of chromatin biology, transcriptional regulation of gene expression, epigenetics, and changes in DNA methylation and histone modification patterns in transformed cancerous cells.

Milena believes that by gaining further knowledge of the mechanisms governing the spatio-temporal control of gene activation, and the emerging significance of heritable changes in gene function occurring without DNA sequence alterations, will help to develop a better understanding of cancer's complexities.