

NIH Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) 2023–2024 Seminar Series

Dietary Supplements and Neurological Resilience in Aging

Lukasz M. Ciesla, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
The University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL

Wednesday, October 11 • 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET

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Lukasz Ciesla received his Ph.D. from the Medical University of Lublin, Poland, in 2011. After defending his dissertation, he worked in the Department of Plant Biochemistry and Crop Quality, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation in Poland. From 2012 to 2014 he worked on the Foundation for Polish Science’s “Multidisciplinary development of drugs acting on selected neuronal receptors” project. He was a laureate of the Foundation for Polish Science SKILLS-Mentoring program; his mentor was Prof. Christian Zidorn at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Between 2014 and 2017 he worked as a visiting fellow at the National Institute on Aging in Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Ciesla is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alabama. His research program focuses on understanding the role of dietary phytochemicals in the prevention and treatment of chronic noncommunicable diseases. His team at the University of Alabama also develops novel approaches in the discovery of biologically active compounds present in complex natural matrices, such as plant, bacterial and fungal extracts. His work has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including through the NIH Consortium for Advancing Research on Botanical and Other Natural Products (CARBON) Program.

Recent Publications

1. U. Maitra, J. Conger, M.M.M. Owens, L. Ciesla. Predicting structural features of selected flavonoids responsible for neuroprotection in a *Drosophila* model of Parkinson's disease. *Neurotoxicology*. 2023 May;96:1–12. doi: 10.1016/j.neuro.2023.02.008. Epub 2023 Feb 21. PMID: 36822376.
2. H.A. Park, K. Crowe-White, L. Ciesla, M. Scott, S. Bannerman, A. Davis, B. Adhikari, G. Burnett, K. Broman, K.A. Ferdous, K. Lackey, P. Licznerski, E. Jonas. Alpha-tocotrienol enhances arborization of primary hippocampal neurons via upregulation of Bcl-xL. *Nutr Res*. 2022 May;101:31–42. doi: 10.1016/j.nutres.2022.02.007. Epub 2022 Mar 7. PMID: 35366596; PMCID: PMC9081260.
3. U. Maitra, T. Harding, Q. Liang, L. Ciesla. GardeninA confers neuroprotection against environmental toxin in a *Drosophila* model of Parkinson's disease. *Communications Biology*. 2021 Feb 5;4(1):162. PMID: 33547411; PMCID: PMC7864937.



**Strengthening Knowledge and
Understanding of Dietary Supplements**