Professor Anila Hoda (Çaushi) Acad.

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Academician Anila Hoda is a prominent Albanian geneticist, educator, and researcher whose career spans over three decades of significant contributions to university education and scientific advancements in Albania. Her academic and research activities are primarily focused on animal genetics and biotechnology, utilizing advanced molecular biology, population genetics frameworks, and state-of-the-art bioinformatics tools. She completed her higher education at the University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences, majoring in Biology (5-year program) and graduating with excellent results in 1990. Immediately following her graduation, she began her academic career as a lecturer at the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT), where she continues to serve. Over her distinguished career, she earned successive academic degrees and titles: a Doctor of Sciences (Ph.D.) degree in 1999, the title of Associate Professor in 2004, and the title of Professor in 2010.

Key professional position

- **Vice-Rector for Scientific Research:** Served at the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT) from 2013 to 2016.
- **Academic Senate:** Served as an elected member of the Academic Senate of AUT for a 12-year tenure.
- **Department Leadership:** Chaired the Department of Animal Science during two distinct periods (2003–2008 and 2016–2020) and directed Master's Studies in Animal Science.
- **Institutional Development:** Served as Head of the Scientific Research and Projects Department (2009–2013), and Head of the Department of Teaching, Curriculum Development, Institutional Development, and Career (2016–2020).
- **National Quality Assurance:** Served for 5 years as the Vice-Chair of the Accreditation Board at the Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education (ASCAL).

Research Expertise & Areas of Interest

- **Animal & Population Genetics:** Specializes in assessing the genetic diversity, phylogenetic relationships, and population structures of indigenous and regional livestock breeds using molecular markers.
- **Bioinformatics & In Silico Analysis:** Applies computational biology frameworks for structural, functional, and phylogenetic characterization of proteins, as well as tracking deleterious single nucleotide polymorphisms (nsSNPs).
- **Curriculum Modernization:** Leads the modernization of regional agricultural education curricula through the management and coordination of cross-border international projects such as Tempus, DAAD, Erasmus+ Capacity Building, and Erasmus Mundus.

Selected Projects & Grant Coordination

- **National Livestock Genetics (2022–2023):** Principal Investigator on evaluating local sheep breed structures via molecular markers and tracking correlations with morphometric traits.

- **Ohrid Trout Conservation (2022–2024):** Scientific lead evaluating genetic diversity across four endemic forms of Ohrid trout (Salmo letnica), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF/SGP).
- **EU Horizon / Framework Projects:** Collaborator on the landmark European Union project Econogene (QLK5-CT2001-02461), integrating molecular genetics and geostatistical approaches for sustainable livestock resource conservation.

Selected Publications

Hoda, A., Lika (Çekani), M., & Kolaneci, V. (2023). Identification of deleterious nsSNPs in human HGF gene: in silico approach. *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics*. DOI: 10.1080/07391102.2022.2164060

Ciani, E., Mastrangelo, S., Da Silva, A., Marroni, F., ..., **Hoda, A.**, ..., & Lenstra, J. A. (2020). On the origin of European sheep as revealed by the diversity of the Balkan breeds and by optimizing population-genetic analysis tools. *Genetics Selection Evolution*, 52:25.

Hoda, A., Tafaj, M., & Sallaku, E. (2021). In silico Structural, Functional and Phylogenetic Analyses of cellulase from Ruminococcus albus. *Journal of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology*, 19(1):58.

Hoda, A., Meçaj, R., & Hykaj, G. (2022). Morphometric characterization of four sheep breeds reared in South East of Albania. *Agriculture and Forestry*, 68(3): 241-253.