

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information **Violeta Astratinei**

Work experience

Current roles and activities

Asociația Melanom Romania, Founder and President

October 2015 — Present

- Advocating for the elaboration and implementation of a National Cancer Plan, NCP, in Romania: member of the Commission for Oncology of the Ministry of Health (2021-2022), submissions to the NCP drafts, awareness and outreach activities about the importance of NCPs
- Increasing the participation of Eastern European cancer patient advocates in European research projects; currently, WP lead research engagement, education and advocacy in MELCAYA- Novel Health Care Strategies for Melanoma in Children, Adolescents and Young Adults, part of the Cancer Mission cluster "Understanding" program, GA 101096667.
- Sustaining and facilitating an active network of relevant healthcare stakeholders, Ministry of Health, National Agency of Medicine and Medical Devices, National Health Insurance House, National Commission of Bioethics, Institutes of Oncology Bucharest, Iasi and Cluj and private Cancer Centres, Public Institute of Health, commercial partners including pharmaceuticals and diagnostics, to ensure and coordinate access to diagnostics treatment and clinical trials for Romanian Melanoma patients.
- Ensuring support and education for Romanian Melanoma patients in the national language and independent of their place of residency through regional meetings, patient guides, patient online forums and a national Melanoma patient conference since 2016.

Melanoma Patient Network Europe, MPNE

June 2014 — Present

- MPNEcore member, secretary of MPNEsupport. MPNEcore members are responsible for the overall strategic direction, the educational program and the coordination of joint activities of the MPNE community, including participation in European projects- UMCURE2020, GA667787, Share4Rare, GA 780262 and ITOBOS, GA 965221
- Program director for MPNCEE- Melanoma Patient Network in Central and Eastern Europe. MPNCEE provides a platform for mutual learning, capacity building and coordination of advocacy activities for Melanoma advocates of the region, e.g. past regional conferences in Serbia, Croatia, Romania and North Macedonia.
- Particular interest in clinical trial design and research, EUPATI fellow 2015. Review of research grant applications and academic and commercial clinical trial protocols. Member of the EORTC Melanoma Group and the Melanoma Group Steering Committee.

Dutch Melanoma Foundation/Stichting Melanoom, Board Member and Scientific Advisor

June 2015 — Present

- working with a network of 14 Dutch melanoma centres, physicians, researchers, and Dutch authorities, e.g. Zorginstituut Nederland-ZINL, Committee for the Assessment of Oncological Drugs-CIEBOM, Dutch Melanoma Treatment Registry, Dutch Federation of Cancer Patient Organisations- NFK and the pharmaceutical industry - Vereniging Innovatieve Geneesmiddelen- VIG
- advocate and advise on patients' access issues within the Dutch Federation of Cancer Patient Organisations (NFK) as a member of the Expensive Medicines and Molecular Diagnostics Working Groups
- ensure the consistent and high-quality involvement of Stichting Melanoom in research activities, e.g. advisory functions, research grant reviews, revisions of Melanoma guidelines, and submissions to national decision-makers
- patient advocacy advisor in DARE-NL project, the Dutch Platform for Cancer-specific ATMP Research and project leader of Meaningful Information for the Right Hospital Choice in Melanoma, a ZonMW grant no 70-74200-98-857

VA Consulting, Netherlands, owner

July 2017 — Present

Consultancy activities in European Projects, Patient Involvement, Education and Advocacy, Clinical Research and Patient Access

Past Employment

Scientific Researcher at National R-D Institute for Environmental Protection, Bucharest, Romania

June 1991 — December 2010

Research in Environmental Biology and Microbiology, Project Management and Consultancy, Aquatic Microbiology Laboratory Lead

Education and training

Marie Curie Fellowship, University of Wageningen, Environmental Technology, The Netherlands

March 2003 — March 2004

Ph.D. Ecology, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology, Department of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Romania

June 1996 — June 2005

MSc Biology, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology, Romania

June 1985 — June 1991

Relevant Courses

Medicine Research & Development

European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation, EUPATI

- A one-year training course covering the full lifecycle of medicines research and development from design and

execution of research projects and clinical trials to regulatory processes and Health Technology Assessment, September 2014 — December 2015
Toxicology
Medical University of Vienna, Institute of Cancer Research
• Toxicologic pathology, 1st- 3rd May 2014
• Analytical and forensic toxicology, exposure assessment, 18- 21 June 2014
• Toxicologic epidemiology, 25-27 September 2014

Additional information

Publications

Selection

1. **Ethical, Legal, and Social Assessment of AI-Based Technologies for Prevention and Diagnosis of Rare Diseases in Health Technology Assessment Processes**, Refolo, P., Raimondi, C., **Astratinei, V.**, Battaglia, L., Borràs, J. M., Closa, P., Lo Scalzo, A., Marchetti, M., Muñoz-López, S., Sampietro-Colom, L., Sacchini, D. *Healthcare*, 2025; 13(7): 829.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare13070829>
2. **Challenges and Potential Improvements in Policy Strategies for Prevention and Early Diagnosis in Childhood Melanoma: A Patient Perspective**, Muñoz-López, S., Closa, P., Refolo, P., Raimondi, C., **Astratinei, V.**, Ryll, B., Prades, J., Sacchini, D., Borràs, J. M., Sampietro-Colom, L.
Oral presentation at the Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) 2025 Annual Meeting, Buenos Aires.
3. **Assessing Innovative Health Technologies for Secondary Prevention and Diagnosis: The MELCAYA Project**
Raimondi, C., Refolo, P., **Astratinei, V.**, Ryll, B., Sacchini, D. Poster presented at the International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation (ICEEC) 2024 & Canadian Bioethics Society.
<https://publicatt.unicatt.it/handle/10807/279097>
4. **A New Framework for Co-Creating Telehealth for Cancer Care with the Patient Community**
Addario, B., **Astratinei, V.**, Binder, L., et al. , *Patient*, 2023; 16: 415–423. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40271-023-00642-x>
5. **Adjuvant Immune Checkpoint Blockade Revisited: The Need to Consider More Factors and Involve All Stakeholders**
van Akkooi, A., **Astratinei, V.**, van Elst, K., Steuten, L. *EJC Skin Cancer*, 2023.
[https://www.ejcskn.com/article/S2772-6118\(23\)00014-9/fulltext](https://www.ejcskn.com/article/S2772-6118(23)00014-9/fulltext)
6. **Critical Issues in Melanoma Follow-up and Treatment, Safety of Patients and Communication with Healthcare Professionals During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Romania**, **Astratinei, V.**, Strambu-Dima, A., Ryll, B., *Journal of Medical and Radiation Oncology*, 2021; 1: 15–33.
<https://doi.org/10.53011/JMRO.2021.01.02>
7. **V2A2: A Tool to Promote Patient Agency Through Effective Patient Information**, Ryll, B., Spurrier, G., **Astratinei, V.**
Research Outreach, 2020; Issue 117.
8. **Essential Requirements for Uveal Melanoma Guidelines: Learnings from the First MPNE Patient Consensus Meeting**
Ryll, B.*, **Astratinei, V.**, Dogaru, I., Evans, A., Galloway, I., Gumbs, J., Näsman, E., Rimmer, T., Spurrier-Bernard, G., Woraker, A., Östman, F.
Poster presented at the European Conference on Rare Diseases (ECRD) 2020.
9. **Attributes Defining Patient Engagement and Centeredness in Health Care Research and Practice: A Framework Developed by the ISPOR Patient-Centred Special Interest Group**, Hanna, M. L., Oehrlein, E. M., Perfetto, E. M., **Astratinei, V.**, Berner, T., Burke, L. B., et al.
Value in Health, 2016; 19(7): A487.

Projects

Selection:

As a member of Melanoma Patient Network Europe and Asociatia Melanom Romania - Partner in EU projects

- MELCAYA, iTOBOS, Share4RARE UM CURE- workpackages related to Patient Research Involvement, Education and Advocacy

As a member of the Dutch Melanoma Foundation/Stichting Melanoom

- Currently involved in NORMA1, NORMA 2 and OMIT trials in the Netherlands - reviews, advice and coordination of patient involvement.
- Member of the User Committees of the NWO grant "Off the Shelf Nanovaccines in Cancer"

Memberships

Patient Advisory roles and working groups (selection)

WHO- Access to Novel Medicines Platform, Work Group 2 Solidarity (2023- present)

- NMP is a multi-stakeholder collaborative platform initiated by WHO Europe to ensure affordable and equitable patient access to effective, but high-cost medicines. WG Solidarity is formed by 12 member states, 3 non-governmental organisations, 6 partner organisations, and 5 industry organisations, and aims to strengthen voluntary inter-country collaborative platforms and procurement groups.

EORTC-European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, member in Melanoma Steering Committee (2019-present)

- focuses on high-quality clinical trials and translational research to improve melanoma outcomes.

Professional Societies

ESMO- 2016- present

ASCO - 2017- present

Other Relevant Information

I am a patient representative.