



**Dr Petras Prakas** is a chief researcher at the Nature Research Centre, an associate professor at the Institute of Biological Systems and Genetic Research of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. In 2021, he defended his doctoral thesis 'Diversity and ecology of *Sarcocystis* in Lithuanian game fauna', in which he investigated the genetic, morphological, and ecological characteristics of food-borne parasites and assessed the genetic diversity and structure of animal populations in the context of biodiversity, a single health concept, and the conservation. Dr Prakas's research interests include parasitology, population genetics, systematics, phylogeny, bioinformatics, conservation genetics, and molecular biology. The results of his studies have been published in 51 articles in journals with an impact factor in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science database (12 of which were in Q1 and 22 in Q2 journals, 25 articles with first authorship). His H-index score is 17. A total of 18 scientific articles have been published with international partners from 16 different countries (Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Mozambique, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, and USA). Dr Prakas and co-authors described 15 species of *Sarcocystis* parasites. He has given 55 presentations at international conferences, one of them as an invited speaker. He is the scientific leader of four projects financed by the Research Council of Lithuania and an implementer of three research projects. Dr Prakas supervises doctoral theses defended at the Nature Research Centre and is a scientific consultant of PhD thesis defended in Latvia; he has supervised twelve successful bachelor and three master theses. He is currently supervising two doctoral students (Natural Sciences, Biology). He is the coordinating lecturer of the courses on population genetics and ecological genetics of the bachelor study programme 'Medical and Veterinary Genetics' at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. Dr Prakas has reviewed more than 50 published research papers. The master thesis he had supervised was distinguished as the best in 2016 in biomedical sciences. Petras Prakas is also a recipient of the Young Scientist Scholarship of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.