

# Cumhur Gökhan Ekmekci MD, PhD

Independent Computational Oncology Researcher · Istanbul, Türkiye

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## AT A GLANCE

- **25+ yrs molecular & medical genetics**
- **7+ yrs computational drug discovery**
- **26 SCI publications**
- **Independent · unencumbered IP**
- **Widening-country beneficiary (hop-on eligible)**

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Neoantigen identification & prioritisation; HLA-aware epitope ranking
- Tumour mutational burden (TMB) panel design & optimisation
- Structure-based drug discovery: docking (AutoDock Vina), MD (GROMACS/AMBER), MM-GBSA
- Protein structure modelling: AlphaFold / AlphaFold-Multimer
- Causal target identification (Mendelian randomisation)
- Virtual screening; biomarker discovery
- NGS / exome analysis; bioinformatics (Python, R, RDKit, Linux)

## DISEASE FOCUS

- Oncology: PDAC, CRC, prostate, glioma / DIPG
- Rare metabolic & neuromuscular disease
- Neurodegeneration; longevity biology

## CAPABILITY STATEMENT

An independent computational oncology researcher combining a clinical-genetics background with a mature in-silico drug-discovery pipeline. Work spans neoantigen and TMB-based biomarker design, causal target identification, and structure-based assessment of candidate targets and epitopes. Delivers self-contained, well-defined computational work packages that plug into experimental and clinical consortia with clear deliverables and no overlap — ideal for a Horizon Europe Hop-on contribution from a Widening country.

## EDUCATION

**MD, Medicine** — Hacettepe Univ. & Istanbul Univ. Faculty of Medicine (1997)

**PhD, Genetics** — Istanbul Univ., Inst. of Experimental Medicine (DETAE) (2005)

**Postdoctoral** — Molecular Therapeutics / Pharmaceutical Genomics, MD Anderson Cancer Center & TGen, USA (2006-2007)

## POSITIONS

**Head of Medical Genetics** — Memorial Hospitals Group, Istanbul (2008-2015)

**Assistant Professor & LabGen Director** — Acibadem University, Istanbul (2015-2019)

**Independent Researcher** — Istanbul (2019-present)

## SELECTED RECENT OUTPUTS

- Ni C, ..., Ekmekci C, et al. A programmed decline in ribosome levels governs human early neurodevelopment. *Nature Cell Biology* (2025).
- Structure-based identification of novel USP7 inhibitors — ECC10, Antwerp (2026), poster + flash talk.
- Pan-cancer shared neoantigens (TP53/KRAS/BRAF) & TMB panel optimisation — ESMO TAT 2026, Paris.
- Computational DIPG dual ALK5/ALK2 (galunisertib-class) inhibitor study.

For Horizon Europe Hop-on partners (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03): I can contribute a discrete, fully-funded computational work package (neoantigen / target / biomarker) to your ongoing Pillar 2 or EIC Pathfinder action — adding Widening geographical diversity at no cost to your existing budget. Detailed proprietary methods shared under a mutual CDA.