

## Graduation ceremony with mortarboard for the very first time: Celebrating the Next Generation of Postgraduate Students at NKUA



**T**wo graduation ceremonies were held for postgraduate students at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023**. The ceremonies occurred at the Physiology Amphitheater "G. Kotzias" and the School of Medicine Meeting Hall of NKUA. One hundred new graduates of Postgraduate Programs donned academic caps for the first time, while 20 new doctors took their oath. The Vice Dean of the School, Professor Nikolaos Arkadopoulos, and many relatives and friends of the graduates attended the event.

**We wish all graduates a successful career ahead, with many accomplishments and for even greater heights!**

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## Dean and Vice Dean of School of Medicine Meet with Archbishop Ieronymos to Discuss Collaboration Opportunities

**O**n May 4th, 2023, the Dean of the Medical School, Professor of Cardiology, Gerasimos Siasos and the Associate Dean, Professor of Surgery, Nikolaos Arkadopoulos, had the honor of visiting the Archbishop. Professor Siasos congratulated the Archbishop during the visit for his significant social and spiritual contributions.

The Archbishop expressed his gratitude and engaged in a fruitful discussion with the esteemed Professors, touching upon various issues of mutual interest. They also explored potential avenues for collaboration between the Medical school and the Church.

For further information:  
[https://www.ecclesia.gr/epikairota/main\\_epikairota\\_next.asp?id=3537&fbclid=IwAR2kKtZvK681tSZwQIVFmMmFBLX34dGTLvTMJ28m41xnt6VB1RZrsbwI-\\_8](https://www.ecclesia.gr/epikairota/main_epikairota_next.asp?id=3537&fbclid=IwAR2kKtZvK681tSZwQIVFmMmFBLX34dGTLvTMJ28m41xnt6VB1RZrsbwI-_8)



## «Laikon» Hospital Successfully Treats Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm with Endovascular Techniques



**T**he successful treatment of a thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm by “Laikon” Hospital marks a significant milestone in endovascular therapy. This impressive accomplishment reflects the dedication of the surgical team of the hospital to providing exceptional care and the expertise. Hospitalized patients take innovative and effective treatment. The establishment of the 2nd Department of Vascular Surgery of the NKUA, in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in the “Laikon” University Hospital, under the leadership of Director Professor X. Klonaris, was a momentous occasion for the School of Medicine.

Professor Christos Klonaris and the Associate Professor Thanos Katsargyris accomplished a significant breakthrough by successfully performing an endovascular repair of an aortic aneurysm. Treating thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms through endovascular means has been challenging due to the presence of one or more visceral arteries originating from the false lumen of the aorta. However, they used a new technique in this specific aneurysm, where a specialized reentry catheter punctured the dissected tissue, enabling access to the right renal artery branching from the false aortic. This technique allowed for local communication between the two lumens, and a complete endovascular treatment of the dissected aneurysm was performed, while preserving blood supply to all internal organs using a 4-branched endograft. It is worth noting that only a few specialized centers worldwide currently perform such procedures.

*The endovascular repair of the thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm.*



## The Introducing the University Center for Interventional Treatment of Stroke: Revolutionizing Stroke Care

**T**he Center for the Interventional Treatment of Cerebrovascular Incidents was officially presented in January 2023 in collaboration with three hospitals: «Aiginiteio,» «Areteio,» and «Alexandra,» as well as the University Departments of the School of Medicine of NKUA. The Departments involved in this collaboration include the 1st Neurology Department, directed by Prof. L. Stefanis; the 1st Radiology Department, overseen by Prof. L.E. Mouloupoulou; the Clinical Therapeutics Department, headed by Rector Professor A.M. Dimopoulos; and the 1st University Anesthesiology Department directed by Prof. K. Theodoraki. The Vascular Unit of the 2nd Surgery Department, led by Prof. Th. Kotsis, is also part of this collaboration. The Center, directed by Prof. P. Papagiannopoulos, comprises a specialized interdisciplinary team from three hospitals. The group includes the Neurology professor D. Mitsikostas, the associate professor S. Vasilopoulou, and the Associate Professor E. Korompoki, a specialized pathologist managing Cerebrovascular Incidents (CVIs).

The Amphitheater of the «Areteio» University Hospital hosted the event, which was attended by dignitaries, such as the Minister of Digital Governance, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, the Deputy Minister of Health, Zoe Rapti, the Rector of NKUA, Professor Meletios Athanassios Dimopoulos, the Dean of the Medical School Professor Gerasimos Siasos, the Associate Dean Professor Nikolaos Arkadopoulos and many more. These individuals addressed the severe issue that Greece is facing, having the highest mortality rate from CVIs in the first month in Western Europe, and attributed it to the lack of proper treatment facilities. However, a new Center has been operating for over a year to address this gap. Its primary goal is to provide modern management of acute ischemic CVIs with interventional therapies of reperfusion, such as the thrombolysis, and the mechanical thrombectomy. The scientists involved with the Center plan to take further action to improve its operations. These initiatives include expanding the Center's staff with medical professionals and upgrading its technological equipment. By doing so, they aim to increase the frequency of shifts and help as many people as possible.



## Discover the Intriguing Relationship Between Disease and Literature at the **1st Interdisciplinary Conference of the Book History Lab!**

**T**he 1st Interdisciplinary Conference on «Disease and Literature» was a successful collaboration between the Book History Lab and the School of Medicine of the NKUA. Held on May 26-27 at the Amphitheater "A. Argyriadis" at the Propylaia of NKUA, the conference aimed to explore the common ground between literature and medicine through interdisciplinary, cross-thematic approaches. It also sheds light on the conditions of literary production and the reception of illness from ancient times to the present.

The conference took an open approach, encompassing disease in its social dimension, artistic creation, medical and scientific thought, treatment, and education. It also delved into the impact of digital transition on literature and the role of the internet and technology in modern representations of disease.

Overall, the conference was a valuable platform for learning and sharing insights on the intersection of disease and literature.



The conference was dedicated to the memory of Myrsini Zorba (1949-2023)



## The World's Leading Experts at the **40th Annual Meeting** of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases in Athens



**T**he 40th annual conference of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID) was held in Greece and was a great success. After two years of online meetings, this year's hybrid conference project was a huge success, with more participants than ever. More than 3,400 delegates from 130 countries attended, with over 1,400 attending in person at the Conference Center - Athens Concert Hall. The local organizing committee was led by the Professor Marisa Tsolia, and Theoklis Zaoutis from the NKUA, and the Professor Manolis Galanakis from the University of Crete, who collaborated with a team of internationally recognized pediatricians and infectious diseases specialists to create an exciting scientific program.

During the conference, distinguished speakers worldwide and faculty from the NKUA and other Greek Universities delivered many excellent presentations. Several successful symposia were organized in collaboration with other international scientific societies, such as ESCMID, ESID, ESPGHAN, and PIDSA.

The conference extensively covered topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its immediate and long-term consequences, its successes and challenges, and its impact on the developing world. The conference's major themes were developing vaccines and vaccinating children and adolescents against COVID-19. The program also included discussions on the pathogenetic mechanisms and treatment of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) following SARS-CoV-2 infection. Additionally, the conference shed light on the latest developments in other major pediatric healthcare issues. During the scientific program, various infections, such as tuberculosis, HIV, and influenza, were discussed. Additionally, topics like antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial surveillance, and the treatment of multidrug-resistant pathogens were covered. The discussions also included subjects about infections in immunocompromised individuals, newborns, and refugees. The presentations also highlighted the impact of climate change on emerging infections and the role of microbiome in health and disease.

The development of new technologies, such as personalized medicine for vaccine design and diagnostic approaches for children with fever, was emphasized. New genomic and proteomic methods for diagnosing infections and the differential diagnosis of inflammatory diseases like Kawasaki disease or MIS-C were also discussed. Special attention was given to the latest data on hepatitis of unknown etiology, which mainly affects young children and concerns health authorities in Europe and internationally. The event was greeted by the Professor Emeritus D. Kafetzis, one of the founding members of ESPID, along with the President of the School of Medicine, G. Siasos, and the Dean, E. Pikoul. During the event, a message was delivered by the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission, Ms. Stella Kyriakides.

The recent Greek event was an incredible celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Society's founding. The event occurred at the beautiful Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, where attendees from different generations came together to share their unique perspectives, exchange ideas, and develop new collaborations. The conference had a wonderful atmosphere full of excitement, and it has already been deemed one of the most successful in the Society's history.

If you're interested in learning more about the conference and the various topics covered, please check out the official event website at <https://2022.espidmeeting.org/>.



# Revolutionizing Healthcare: How University Hospitals Are Embracing the Digital Era

**T**he event “Digital Transformation: The Next Step in Medical Education and Practice” was held on April 25, 2023, at the Amphitheater of Aiginition University Hospital, and it was a huge success. During the event, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, the Minister of Digital Governance, announced that integrating the digital transformation project of the two University Hospitals, “Aretaieio” and “Aiginition,” into the event “Digital Transformation: The Next Step in Medical Education and Practice” was a remarkable success, held on April 25, 2023, at the Amphitheater of Aiginition University Hospital.

The Minister of Digital Governance, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, announced the event that the integration of the digital transformation project of the two University Hospitals, “Aretaieio” and “Aiginition,” into the Recovery Fund is going well. This ambitious project began three years ago under the guidance of Professor G. Siasos and is currently being continued by Professor N. Arkadopoulou. The digital transformation project includes the Hospitals of the National Health System (ESY), where University Clinics and Laboratories are included. The project digitizes clinical, laboratory, and administrative work, including patient records, digitization of all medical records and examinations, electronic appointments, administrative decisions, applications, certificates, tenders, procurements, and warehouse management. Soon, the complete digital transformation of hospital structures will become the norm for providing healthcare and education services. This modernizing step will significantly benefit patients, students, physicians, hospital employees, and society. The Recovery Fund is progressing rapidly. This ambitious project, which aims to digitize the University Hospitals fully, began three years ago under Professor G. Siasos, the Chairman of the Boards, and is currently being continued by Professor N. Arkadopoulou.

The digital transformation of the University Hospitals and the National Health System is progressing rapidly. The project aims to digitize all clinical, laboratory, and administrative aspects, including patient records, medical examinations, appointments, administrative decisions, applications, certificates, tenders, procurements, and warehouse management. This will likely be one of the most significant modernizing steps in recent years, providing substantial benefits for patients, students, physicians, hospital employees, and society. The project began under the leadership of Professor G. Siasos and is currently being continued by Professor N. Arkadopoulou. The announcement was made during the successful event «Digital Transformation: The Next Step in Medical Education and Practice,» held at the Amphitheater of Aiginition University Hospital on April 25, 2023, where Kyriakos Pierrakakis, the Minister of Digital Governance, shared the news.



Revolutionizing Medical Education:

# Simulated Surgery Course Marks a Milestone for the School of Medicine

**O**n January 25, 2023, the School of Medicine of the NKUA accomplished a significant feat in modernizing its educational practices. The 2nd Surgery Department hosted the first-ever simulated surgery lesson at «Aretaeio» Hospital, led by the Professor Manousos Konstantoulakis. The students of the 6th year's first term attended the «Basic Principles of Laparoscopic Surgery» (BLS) course. They had the opportunity to use the latest generation Symbionix simulators for their simulation-based surgery training. This training played a crucial role in their medical education.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Seminar Train the Trainers

**O**n May 4, 2023, the School of Medicine of the NKUA held the second “Train the Trainers” seminar, “Methods of Assessing Clinical Skills: Practical Applications in the Greek Reality.” The seminar was organized in collaboration with the Professors Dimitrios Vasilopoulos, the Coordinator of the Undergraduate Education Committee, and Dimitrios Boubas, the Head of the Education Office, in recognition of the contemporary need for high-quality medical education. The seminar successfully highlighted the importance of continuous interaction and deepening modern practices and was held at the Physiology Amphitheater “G. Kotzias,” with simultaneous online broadcasting.

### Seminar Program:

*Organizing Committee - Chairpersons:* Professor A. Bimpas, Professor M. Samarkos

### Speakers & Topics:

- Methods of assessing clinical skills outside OSCE – Professor M. Samarkos
- OSCE - Basic knowledge - Experience from other Medical Schools – Associate Professor D. Farmakis (Medical School, University of Cyprus)
- Implementation of OSCE at the Medical School of the NKUA – Professor A. Bimpas



## BLS Seminar for Medical Students: Enhancing Life-saving Skill

**O**n February 9, 2023 a Basic Life Support (BLS) Seminar was held with great success and high turnout of students. The BLS Seminar was implemented by the Hellenic Society of Cardiology in the Conference Room of the School of Medicine.



## Dr. Christina Dalla was appointed founding member of the European Brain Foundation



**D**r. Christina Dalla has been selected as a founding member and board director of the European Brain Foundation (EBF) of Brussels.

The EBF is an independent charity that involves leading European neurological, neurosurgical, and psychiatric clinical societies, neuroscience research societies, and patients' organizations. Its primary mission is to support research that aims to reduce the burden of brain disorders on society and contribute to promoting the brain health of every citizen of Europe.

In her capacity at the EBF, Dr. Dalla recently talked with the President of the European Commission, Mr. Margaritis Schinas, regarding brain health and European policy-making. On October 10th, 2023, World Mental Health Day, she will speak at the European Parliament's "All in One Brain: A Discussion on Mental Health" event. Additionally, she was recently invited to comment on Nature Mental Health's need for increased targeted funding for integrating sex and gender in brain research to develop innovative and effective interventions for everyone.

Here is some additional information about EBF:



<https://www.brainfoundation.eu/>

You can also find a link to the Nature Mental Health article here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44220-023-00076-2>



## Transform Your Health and Overcome Obesity

### at Professor Charmandari's Out-Patient Clinic

**T**he Out-patient Clinic for the Prevention and Management of Overweight and Obesity, which operates under the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Diabetes of the First Department of Pediatrics at the School of Medicine of the NKUA and is located at the "Aghia Sophia" Children's Hospital, has been consistently making significant efforts to reduce the prevalence of obesity in Greece under the supervision of Professor Evangelia Charmandari for many years.



The clinic uses data analysis and interventions to fight obesity. These interventions have resulted in a 30% decrease in obesity prevalence and a 35% decrease in overweight prevalence annually, according to Professor Charmandari. Significant improvements in cardiometabolic indicators have also been observed, indicating the potential for better adult health.

The clinic also leverages modern tools and innovative technologies, such as e-health and Big Data for more effective and tailored management of obesity in children and adolescents. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the clinic has provided quality care using these tools and technologies.

The clinic's comprehensive research has contributed to an integrated, interdisciplinary, personalized lifestyle intervention program. This program has significantly improved clinical indices of obesity such as body mass index (BMI), BMI z-score, waist-to-height ratio, as well as body composition indices, inflammatory markers, hepatic enzymes, glycated hemoglobin (HbA1C), quantitative insulin sensitivity check index (QUICKI), and lipid profile among participants in the clinic's projects. Additionally, there was a significant increase in leucocyte telomere length (LTL), a robust marker of biological aging that is associated with obesity and cardiometabolic risk factors, as emphasized by the Professor.



## OUT-PATIENT CLINIC FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY «AGHIA SOPHIA»

Supervisor Professor: **Evangelia Charmandari**

Top distinctions 2022



### Patient Partnerships Awards

Improving Health

(Improving Patients' & Vulnerable Populations' Life)



#### PLATINUM & GOLD Awards

**Project:** «Lose Weight - Gain Life: The contribution of a personalized diet, exercise and psychological intervention program to improve the life quality of children and adolescents with overweight and obesity»



### Hellenic Responsible Business Awards

Technology for the Common Good

(Technology & Health)



#### GOLD Award

**Project:** «The contribution of innovative electronic health technologies (e-Health) and large-scale data (Big Data) to the management of obesity in children and adolescents»



**Impact BITE Awards**  
Digital Health  
(Digital excellence for COVID-19)



**GOLD Award**

**Project:** «BigO: The contribution of Big Data to the prevention and personalized management of overweight and obesity in childhood and adolescence during the COVID-19 pandemic in Greece»



**Healthcare Business Awards**  
Research Projects in Universities /  
Academic Institutions /  
Research Centers / Hospitals



**GOLD Award**

**Project:** «A comprehensive, multidisciplinary, personalized, lifestyle intervention program is associated with increased leukocyte telomere length in children and adolescents with overweight and obesity»

Top distinctions 2022

## Assistant Professor Konstantinos Palikaras of the Physiology Department of the School of Medicine, of the **NKUA** receives a prestigious ERC Starting Grant!



**K**onstantinos Palikaras, an Assistant Professor of the Physiology Department, at the Laboratory of Physiology “Physiologeion” of the School of Medicine of the NKUA, has been selected for funding through the highly competitive European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant program. The program is designed to attract top scientific talent from around the world to Europe, with the sole criterion being scientific excellence. The ERC Starting Grant program supports young and talented researchers to become independent, establish their research teams, and conduct pioneering research.

Dr. Palikaras specializes in bridging the fields of neuroscience, aging, and metabolism and will study the role of metabolism in neurons, specifically the specialized process of mitochondrial autophagy (mitophagy), in synaptic plasticity during aging.

Prof. Palikaras’ funded research studies the mechanisms that regulate mitophagy in neurons. The goal is to determine how mitophagy affects synaptic plasticity and how its dysfunction during aging can lead to behavioral and synaptic disorders. By revealing these mechanisms, the research aims to facilitate the development of effective interventions for severe neurological diseases and improve the quality of life in old age.



Konstantinos Palikaras is an Assistant Professor of Physiology and also heads the Research Unit of Neurogenetics and Aging, which is part of the Physiology Laboratory «Physiologeion» of the School of Medicine of the NKUA. He studied Biology and holds a doctorate from the Department of Biology at the University of Crete. He completed postdoctoral studies at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB) and the University of Copenhagen.

His research interests focus on studying the molecular mechanisms that regulate the function of the nervous system in both normal and pathological conditions. Through his scientific studies, he has significantly contributed to understanding the molecular mechanisms of neurodegeneration and ageing. His research efforts include (1) the discovery of new natural and synthetic chemical compounds that preserve mitochondrial function during ageing, (2) the study of molecular mechanisms that regulate neurodegeneration and ageing, (3) the development of models of neurodegenerative diseases in the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, and (4) the development of new genetic tools for biomedical research. For his overall scientific contribution, he has been honored with significant international and national awards, including the «Fotis Kafatos» Excellence Award in Biology from the Panhellenic Union of Biological Sciences (PEV), the «Maria Michail Manassaki» Scholarship from the University of Crete, and the DeLill Nasser Award from the Genetics Society of America. He has secured highly competitive funding from the Bodossaki Foundation, the AXA Research Fund, the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (ELIDEK), and the Fondation Sante. His work has been published in international journals such as *Nature*, *Nature Cell Biology*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *Cell Reports*, *Aging Cell*, *Nature Communications*, *Nature Aging*, and *Nature Biomedical Engineering*.

## Professor Konstantinos Makrylakis Re-Elected to International Diabetes Federation Board

**T**he re-election of the associate professor of Pathology, Konstantinos Makrylakis, of the School of Medicine of the NKUA, to the Administrative Council of the European Region of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is a great honor for our country and the medical community.

Prof. Makrylakis, who represented the Hellenic Diabetology Association, was re-elected during the IDF Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal, on April 12, 2022. The European Board of the IDF consists of eight positions, and Prof. Makrylakis was chosen among 12 candidates after voting from all member states of IDF Europe.



## Professor Nikos Papadopoulos serves on the Administrative Council of the World Allergy Organization (WAO)



The World Allergy Organization (WAO) is an international umbrella organization whose members consist of 109 regional and national allergology and clinical immunology societies from around the world. By collaborating with member societies, WAO provides direct educational outreach programs, symposia and lectureships to members in nearly 100 countries around the globe.

A noteworthy achievement for the medical community of Greece is the appointment of Professor Nikos Papadopoulos as a member of the Board of Directors for the World Allergy Organization (WAO) and as the head of the Pediatric Asthma Committee. The WAO Board for 2023-2024 held its first meeting in the United Arab Emirates as part of the Pan-Arab Allergy Meeting from January 27-29, 2023, where they discussed various essential matters related to allergies and asthma.

Nikos Papadopoulos is a renowned Professor in Allergy and Pediatric Allergy. He heads the Allergy Unit of the Second Pediatric Clinic at the University of Athens. He is also an Honorary Professor at the University of Manchester and OPRI in Singapore. He pursued his medical studies and specialization at the University of Athens and completed his postgraduate studies in Great Britain. He has supervised over 20 doctoral theses and organized over 100 educational events, training numerous doctors and researchers in clinical and laboratory settings.

Professor Papadopoulos has been the recipient of several international awards, including the EAACI Clemens von Pirquet Award in 2019, the PhARF Award in 2010, the International Klosterfrau Award in 2003, and the ERS Award for Pediatric Respiratory Research in Europe in 2004. They have authored more than 500 papers, which have garnered over 50,000 citations and an H-index exceeding 100.

Throughout his career, he has participated in numerous European research programs ranging from the 5th Framework Program to the present, including the latest Horizon Europe program (2022). He has actively contributed to several international societies, most notably serving as the President of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) from 2013 to 2015 and being a part of the Respiratory Effectiveness Group from 2018 to 2020.

Currently, his research focuses on investigating the role of respiratory metagenomics in asthma, testing new interventions for allergies to milk and tree nuts, and evaluating potential interventions related to indoor air pollution. In addition, he is leading the PeARL Think Tank (Pediatric Asthma in Real Life) to improve the global management of the pediatric asthma.



## Renowned Professor Athanasios G. Papavassiliou Honored with Membership in the Academy of Medical Sciences of Romania

**D**uring its annual meeting on December 14 2022, in Bucharest, the Plenary Session of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Romania (Adunarea Generală a Academiei de Științe Medicale) unanimously elected Professor Athanasios G. Papavassiliou as an «Honorary Member» (Membru donoare din Străinătate) in the scientific field of Molecular Medicine. Professor Papavassiliou, the Director of the Biological Chemistry Department, of the Medical School of the NKUA, was recognized for his exceptional



achievements and contributions to the progress of medical sciences, particularly in Molecular Medicine, which has gained international recognition.

The Academy of Medical Sciences of Romania, established in 1935, currently has 140 Regular members, 41 Corresponding members, and 54 Honorary members who are distinguished scientists from abroad.

## Professor **Alexios Kelekis** was Elected Next President of the **Society of Interventional Oncology (SIO)**



**P**rof. Alexios Kelekis, a Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology specialist, was recently appointed President-Elect at the Society of Interventional Oncology (SIO). Based in the United States, the SIO aims to promote interventional radiology in oncology by providing patients with various image-guided, vascular, and non-vascular treatment options. The objective of the SIO is to become the fourth pillar of oncology, in addition to surgery, pharmaceuticals, and radiotherapy.

It is a great honor for the NKUA to be recognized among the major universities in the United States. The members of these universities have been, or are currently, part of the Board of Directors of the Society of Interventional Radiology. It is a special recognition for a faculty member from a Greek university to be chosen as their incoming president.

The Society's Board of Directors has notable members, including two professors from Harvard (Beth Israel and MGH), Mayo Clinic, University of California Dan Diego (UCSD), and the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), and professors from international universities such as Singapore and Milan, who have honored Professor Kelekis with their vote.

For more information about the Society of Interventional Oncology, please visit: <https://www.sio-central.org>



**Society of Interventional Oncology**  
3,001 followers  
8mo • Edited • 🌐

We are excited to announce the 2023 SIO Board of Directors! Join us as we welcome this leadership team who will work to advance the society's vision and the field of interventional oncology this year 🍌🍌🍌

### 2023 SIO Board of Directors

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Muneeb Ahmed, MD, FSIR Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard	<b>PRESIDENT-ELECT</b> Alexios Kelekis, MD Attikon University Hospital Athens	<b>TREASURER</b> Jack Jennings, MD, PhD Washington University School of Medicine	<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> Matthew Callstrom, MD, PhD Mayo Clinic
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with You and 12 others

## Inauguration of a Bus Line Connecting the Medical School's Main Campus to «Attikon» University Hospital



From left: Professor N. Arkadopoulos, Professor G. Siasos

**I**n March 2023, a new bus line was inaugurated, connecting the central campus of the Medical School with the “Attikon” University Hospital. This cable also connects the main campus of the Medical School with several hospitals, including the “Children’s Hospital”, “Laikon”, “Hippokratation”, “Alexandra”, “Aretaieio” and “Aiginiteion” Hospitals that are affiliated with the University Hospital “Attikon”.

For a long time, the students who practice at the University Departments of the School of Medicine have been requesting a bus line to make it easier for them to commute to the Central Hospitals and “Attikon” University Hospital. In reply to these requests, the School’s Administration collaborated with the Athens Public Transport Organization (OASA) to design and launch a bus line that would cater to the needs of the students who travel to these hospitals.

We extend our warm thanks to OASA for their positive response.

## Appointments

### 19/12/2022

- Dr Georgios Fragkoulis was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Pathology – Rheumatology (vacant position).
- Dr. Georgios Fragkakis was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Cardiology (vacant position).
- Dr. Evangelos Oikonomou was elected to the position of Associate Professor of Cardiology (vacant position).
- Dr Dimitrios Tsiachris was elected to the position of Associate Professor of Cardiology – Electrophysiology (vacant position).

### 22/12/2022

- Dr Timothea Touloupoulou was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Psychology – Neuropsychology of Psychiatric Disorders (vacant position).
- Dr. Panagiotis Diamantopoulos was elected to the position of Associate Professor of Pathology – Hematology (vacant position).

### 23/12/2022

- Dr Petros Petrou was elected to the position of Associate Professor of Ophthalmology (vacant position)..

### 18/1/2023

- Dr Petros Vlastarakos was elected to the position of Associate Professor of Otorhinolaryngology (vacant position).
- Dr Spyridon Siakavellas was elected to the position of Associate Professor of Pathology – Gastroenterology (vacant position).

### 27/1/2023

- Dr Vasiliki Zoubelou was elected to the position of Associate Professor of Neurology – Neuroimmunology.

### 31/1/2023

- Dr Kalliopi Theodoridou was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Microbiology (vacant position).

### 16/2/2023

- Dr Eleftherios Pappas was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Medical Physics – Radiophysics (vacant position).

### 28/2/2023

- Mr. Christos Adamopoulos was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Biological Chemistry – Cellular Signaling in Diseases (vacant position).

### 7/3/2023

- Mr. Dimitrios–Stergios Evangelopoulos was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Orthopedics – Metabolic Bone Diseases (vacant position).

### 21/3/2023

- Dr Dimosthenis Chrysikos was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Descriptive Anatomy (vacant position).

### 6/4/2023

- Dr Ilias Siempos was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Intensive Care – Pulmonology (vacant position).
- Dr Dimitrios Toumpanakis was elected to the position of Assistant Professor of Intensive Care – Pulmonology (vacant position).

## Promotions

### 8/11/2022

- Dr Despina Sanoudou was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Pharmacogenomics and Cardiovascular Biology.
- Dr Dimitrios Philippou received tenure in the rank of Assistant Professor of Descriptive Anatomy.

### 9/11/2022

- Dr. Aikaterini Politi was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Pathological Anatomy – Clinical Cytology.

### 16/11/2022

- Dr. Ioannis Papanikolaou was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Pathology – Gastroenterology.
- Dr. Emilia Chatzigianni was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Medical Pathobiology – Microbiology.
- Dr. Olga Savvidou was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Orthopedics.

**29/11/2022**

- Dr. Dimitrios Paraskevis was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Epidemiology – Preventive Medicine.
  - Dr. Vassiliki – Anastasia Sypsa was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Epidemiology – Medical Statistics.
  - Dr. Anna Angelousi was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Pathology and Endocrinology.
  - Dr. Maria-Rose Pons-Rodriguez was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Pediatrics - Pediatric Neurology.
  - Dr. Panagiotis Halvatsiotis was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Pathology – Diabetes and Metabolism.
  - Dr. Nikolaos Zavras was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Pediatric Surgery.
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**5/12/2022**

- Dr. Stratigoula Sakellariou was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Pathological Anatomy.
  - Dr. Irene Thymara was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Pathological Anatomy.
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**18/1/2023**

- Dr. Michael Kontos was promoted to the rank of full Professor of General Surgery – Breast Surgery.
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**19/1/2023**

- Dr. Athanasios Dellis was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Urology.
  - Dr. Heraklis Mitsogiannis was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Urology.
  - Dr. Efstathios Chronopoulos was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Orthopedics.
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**24/1/2023**

- Dr. Gikas Maiorkinis was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Hygiene and Epidemiology.
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**7/2/2023**

- Dr. Theodosios Saranteas was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Anesthesiology.
  - Dr. Christos Verykokos was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Vascular Surgery.
  - Dr. Panagiota Pervanidou was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Pediatrics – Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics.
- 

**15/2/2023**

- Dr. Alexandros–Loukas Papalampros was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of General Surgery.
  - Dr. Gerasimos Tsourouflis was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of General Surgery.
  - Dr. Stylianos Kykalos was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of General Surgery.
  - Dr. Nikolaos Michalopoulos was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of General Surgery.
  - Dr. Konstantinos Nastos was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of General Surgery.
  - Dr. Dimitrios Schizas was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of General Surgery.
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**16/2/2023**

- Dr. Panagiotis Koulouvaris was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Orthopedics.
  - Dr. Dimitrios Mastrokalos was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Orthopedics.
  - Dr. Styliani Kokori was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Transfusion Medicine Hematology.
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**28/2/2023**

- Dr. Nikolaos Danias was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of General Surgery.
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**7/3/2023**

- Dr. Stavroula Papadodima was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Forensic Medicine – Toxicology.
  - Dr. Konstantinos Moraitis was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Forensic Medicine – Forensic Anthropology.
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**4/5/2023**

- Dr. Grigorios Stratakis was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Pulmonology – Interventional Pulmonology.
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**18/5/2023**

- Dr. Nikolaos Siafakas was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Diagnostic Virology.
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# Meet the new Faculty Members



**Christos Adamopoulos**

Christos Adamopoulos graduated from the Department of Biology (NKUA) and pursued his doctoral thesis at the Department of Biological Chemistry at the School of Medicine of NKUA (2013). In parallel, he completed the Master's program "Molecular Medicine". From 2014 to 2016, he conducted postdoctoral research at the Medical School as a scholar. In 2017, he moved to New York, USA, where he worked post-doctoral research at the Department of Oncological Sciences of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. In September 2022, he was promoted to Assistant Professor in the same Department. His scientific research focuses on the Biochemistry of cell signaling in disease, especially in cancer, including studying cell signaling regulation mechanisms, resistance to pharmacological targeting, and developing new therapeutic strategies.

A priority in his new position as a faculty member is continuing his research through securing funding and international collaborations. The ultimate goal is to establish a team to produce high-level translational research to understand the role of critical cellular signaling pathways in disease pathogenesis and to design alternative therapeutic approaches. Regarding education, it aspires to strengthen student participation in research projects and scientific writing.

Evangelos Anagnostou served as a Laboratory and Teaching Staff (EDIP) member and, since 2023, holds the position of Associate Professor of Neurology within the Department of Neurology at NKUA ("Eginition" Hospital). He specialized in Neurology at the University Neurological Clinic of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany (Klinikum Grosshadern), and at the First Neurological Clinic of the University of Athens ("Eginition" Hospital). He completed his doctoral thesis in Experimental Neurophysiology at the University of Giessen (Germany). He continued postdoctoral research in Experimental Neurophysiology, focusing on single neuron recordings in primates, at the Center of Sensorimotor Research at the University of Munich (Germany).

His clinical interests are centered on ocular motor and balance disorders, including vertigo, nystagmus, and diplopia. On the other hand, he specializes in clinical neurophysiology, particularly electromyography, and electroneurography, to assess neuromuscular diseases.

His research primarily revolves around these disease entities and delves into the fundamental physiology of upright stance and eye movements. He employs electrophysiological, psychophysical, and computational methods to investigate these aspects.

He is a member of the Neuro-ophthalmology and Neuro-otology Panel of the European Academy of Neurology. Additionally, he holds the position of the Greek representative for the European Dizziness Network, known as "DizyNet." He is a member of the Greek Society of Clinical Neurophysiology board.

It's fascinating that Dr. Anagnostou has a dedicated approach to studying the brain from a systems perspective, integrating engineering and computational neuroscience with clinical neurology. His aim to establish a translational approach is genuinely admirable.



**Evangelos Anagnostou**

Dimosthenis Chrysikos of Taxiarchis is a General Surgeon and an honors graduate of the School of Medicine of the NKUA, with a Ph.D of Philosophy from the Medical School of the NKUA and a Master's Degree in Minimally Invasive and Laparoscopic-Robotic Surgery.

He served as an Academic Fellow at the University Surgery Clinic of the General Oncology Hospital of Kifissia and as a Consultant General Surgeon in the First Prepepdeutical Department of Surgery of "Hippocraton" General Hospital of Athens until today.

He has also retrained as a Visiting Surgeon of the Division of Surgery, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

He has many years of teaching and research experience at the undergraduate level regarding the teaching of Surgery and Anatomy in the Department of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine of NKUandas in six Postgraduate Programs of the NKUA.

He has also retrained as a Visiting Surgeon of the Division of Surgery, Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

He has many years of teaching and research experience at the undergraduate level regarding the teaching of Surgery and Anatomy in the Department of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine of NKUA and in six Postgraduate Programs of the NKUA.

He has written till today 107 publications in prestigious international scPubMeded journals with impact factors to date I.F. 143,852 h-index:19/16, citations:1535/1030 Google scholaScopusus respectively). He is a Reviewer in 19 international scientific journals and a member of the Editorial Board of 11 international scientific journals.

His writing work includes chapters in books, translations of chapters of foreign language books, and branches of international books. It is focused on Surgery and also on the field of Anatomy-Surgical Anatomy.

His research project aims to develop and train Anatomage Tables, the three-dimensional and virtual study of the human body using electronic prototypes and new technologies for medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and postgraduate students of the «Surgical Anatomy» Postgraduate Program of NKUA.

Professor Chrysikos also has honors and awards from the State Scholarship Foundation (IKY) and has received a Fellowship from the Hellenic Surgical Society.

Finally, he is a member of six Greek and international scientific societies.



Dimosthenis Chrysikos

Petros V. Vlastarakos was elected Assistant Professor in Otorhinolaryngology in January 2023. Born in 1974, Dr. Vlastarakos was admitted to the School of Medicine of Athens in 1993 and graduated in 1999 "cum Laude". He specialized in Otorhinolaryngology in the University Clinic of "Hippokrateion General Hospital of Athens" and received further training for four years in the ENT – Head & Neck Department of the Lister – Queen Elizabeth II – Hartford County Hospitals of the East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust. He holds a PhD from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens "Magna cum Laude", an Intercollegiate Diploma in Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and an MSc in "Healthcare Administration" from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens "Summa cum Laude", for which he received two scholarships of Excellence from the Greek State Scholarship's Foundation, and an additional scholarship from the "Alexandros S. Onassis" Foundation.

Dr. Vlastarakos' clinical interest focuses on General and Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology. He has published 94 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and has also extensively served as a Reviewer. Dr. Vlastarakos' aspirations as a Faculty Member of the Medical School of Athens include undergraduate and postgraduate teaching at the highest academic level, scientific publications in highly reputed peer-reviewed journals, and promotion of research through doctoral dissertations. In the clinical field he aims to maintain the high standard of the ENT University Clinic of "Attikon" University Hospital, in which he was officially appointed by the Medical School of Athens in June 2023.



Petros Vlastarakos

## – In Memoriam –



We are deeply saddened to bid farewell to **Professor Emeritus Georgios Androulakis**, who passed away in February 2023. The School of Medicine of Athens expresses profound grief for the irreplaceable void left in our medical family.

Georgios Androulakis was a distinguished scientist and a pure and straightforward person who maintained his authentic character through the passage of time, as is the title of one of his books that he leaves as a legacy. He had a long and continuous academic career and ascended through all the ranks, starting as an Assistant Professor, then becoming an Associate Professor, an Adjunct Professor, and finally a Professor of Surgery in 1992. In his 40-year academic and clinical journey, he taught and mentored thousands of students in General Surgery. He served as a faculty member of the School of Medicine and as the Director of the Fourth Surgical Clinic at “Attikon” University General Hospital and the First Propaedeutic Surgical Clinic at “Hippokraton” Hospital.

Georgios Androulakis’ s extensive literary work has authored over 300 scientific papers in Greek and foreign journals. He is the author of 10 scientific textbooks in Greek and foreign languages and has contributed to many others. He was president of three International Scientific Societies and several Greek ones. Our warm condolences go out to his family and our broader medical family. Let us be inspired by the dignity and values with which he shaped his professional path.



The passing of **Ioannis Tsiantis** in February 2023 was a significant loss for child psychiatry, psychotherapy, and psychiatry. He was a former Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry at the School of Medicine at the NKUA and founded the Department of Psychological Pediatrics in 1977 at “Agia Sophia” Children’s Hospital.

His efforts transformed child psychiatry into an active part of the daily life of the general pediatric hospital and the community. In 1998, the Department evolved into the Child Psychiatry Clinic of the University of Athens, which he directed until 2006 and provided significant development in all areas, including clinical, educational, and research. Ioannis Tsiantis was a pioneer and founding figure of the specialization of Child Psychiatry in the country, with international recognition and acceptance.

He served as the president of Medical Specialties of the E.U. - Child and Adolescent section of the Union European Medical Specialists (UEMS-CAP), Vice-President of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ESCAP), and Scientific Director of the Society of Child and Adolescent Psychosocial Health (EPSYPE). He was also the president of the Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in Greece, a founding member and Vice-President of the European Federation for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, a member of the British Psychotherapy Society, and an expert in the European Union and the World Health Organization. His dedication and contributions will be greatly missed.

Ioannis Tsiantis was a pioneering figure in the field of Child Psychiatry in Greece and internationally. He was highly respected and recognized for his contributions to the field. Ioannis was a passionate teacher of Child Psychiatry and held various roles in national and international organizations. He served as the President of Medical Specialties for the Child and Adolescent section of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS-CAP), Vice-President of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ESCAP), and Scientific Director of the Society of Child and Adolescent Psychosocial Health (EPSYPE). Ioannis was also the President of the Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in Greece and a founding member and Vice-President of the European Federation for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. He was a member of the British Psychotherapy Society and an expert for the European Union and the World Health Organization.

He coordinated and participated in dozens of international and national research programs and was the author of numerous scientific articles and books in foreign languages and Greek.



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Professor of the NKUA, Ioannis Gogas** in April 2023. Born in Kyparissia in 1933, he studied at the School of Medicine of the NK. He specialized in General Surgery at the 1st Department of Surgery of “Laiko” Hospital under the guidance of the late Professor of Surgery, Nikolaos Christeas. He furthered his medical education in England and Boston, USA.

Professor Gogas was elected as a full Professor of Surgery at the School of Medicine of the NK and joined the newly established Second Propaedeutic Department of Surgery at “Laiko” Hospital in 1967, under the directorship of the late Professor of Surgery and Academician Grigorios Skalkeas. From 1995 to 2000, he served as Director of the Second Propaedeutic Surgical Clinic, where he excelled in breast surgery and endocrine glands. Throughout his four decades of academic and clinical work at the School of Medicine, he educated hundreds of students in General Surgery. His students loved him, and many followed his successful path, excelling in

medicine in Greece and abroad. Professor Gogas assumed significant leadership positions, leaving a lasting impact on the field of surgery. He worked with great responsibility and dedication, leaving behind significant contributions to the field of General Surgery in Greece for future generations of physicians. He was an exemplary University Professor who instilled knowledge, ethics, and kindness in thousands of medical students. He significantly contributed to the high standards of the School of Medicine at NKUA.