

What is life and to what extent can we contribute to the improvement of our existence? These questions led me to study Biology and created my dream to follow a career in science and contribute towards the cure for cancer.

As a biology researcher, who has just completed an MSc course in Applied Genetics and Biotechnology and continues towards a PhD degree, I believe that this incredible opportunity will provide me with the current expertise to improve my skills and develop my personality both as an academic in training and person. In addition, I believe this workshop will introduce me to an array of discipline that I am not currently in a position to follow in my university and expand my academic horizons.

As Socrates said, “All I know is I know nothing”. This quote has always motivated me, from my early teenage years until now. Although I have a solid theoretical and experimental background, I feel that I have a long way to go. Such incredible events, as the ones offered, will give me a great chance to familiarize myself with new research areas, further learn and reevaluate my thoughts.

It is obvious to me that the technological innovations and breakthroughs continuously uncover the complexity of many unanswered questions regarding disease mechanisms, diagnosis, prevention and therapy. I feel it is great need to address these issues through a collaboration and constructive interaction between the various scientific disciplines and international communities.

A new era could begin with the exchange of ideas between young scientists and the acknowledged scientific community. Moreover, the interaction with scientists from Academia, Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology industry would further benefit us, the young scientists, to achieve our goals, whose outcome will have great impact on society.

Our society has become more and more demanding in all aspects of life. As the young members of it, we need to play an active role in society. These days almost every country all over the world is facing an economic crisis, which has led to an unexpected austerity, unthought-of in past years. Is science the key element to overcome this problem or not? I believe that economic development and social prosperity could be achieved through science.

I was even more convinced about the significant role of science in offering solutions to the society, when I was assigned as General Secretary of the 2nd Conference of Young Scientists' of Hellenic Society For Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HSBMB), held in Thessaloniki in November 2014, in which my contribution was to organize the meeting and scientific program.

In this conference, I had the great privilege to meet, as well as exchange ideas with other scientists and familiarize myself with their work. I noticed that everyone had a passion for the exploration of the unknown. This passion, together with the knowledge of senior and mentoring scientists can lead us to new paths, as well as to great achievements in the future.