

ELEFThERIA LEDAKI

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

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I am currently a graduate student in the “Molecular Basis of Human Diseases” Master Programme at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Crete, Greece in which I was accepted first among my peer colleagues. All my life, I have tried to achieve the best possible and I have had high expectations of myself. As an undergraduate student I never rested on the knowledge I received both from my undergraduate studies and from the research laboratories I have worked in, but always tried to evolve further my scientific background as much as my laboratory experience.

Throughout these past few years, whenever I was given the chance, I was eager to attend seminars and conferences so as to expand my knowledge on the field I was involved in each time and familiarize myself with different ways of scientific thinking. Having attended the Onassis Foundation Science Lecture Series in Biology “A world of RNAs” I appreciated the unique opportunity a student can get to meet Nobel winner scientists and felt honored to be part of these lectures. Additionally, proving myself that knowledge never ends, as soon as I finished my undergraduate studies, I had an Erasmus placement at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Mouse Biology Unit in Monterotondo, so as to acquire a more complete and realistic knowledge of laboratory life and practice abroad.

Attending the 4th Summer School in Medical & Biosciences Research & Management, will give me the unique opportunity to expand my knowledge on the scientific fields I have already proven my special interest in. Specifically, as far as cancer is concerned, I have been involved in the study of the PI3 kinase pathway and Rho-GTPases which play central role in tumorigenesis and cellular migration and I have also explored the expression and function of nuclear CSF-1R in breast cancer cell lines. Furthermore, my diploma thesis on the epigenetic regulation of gut dysplasia in *Drososoplila melanogaster* and the Erasmus placement on the study of X-inactivation, stimulated my interest on epigenetics which is a field, the study of which I have and will pursue in my academic career. In this way, the courses that will be conducted in the related Summer School such as Immunology will definitely enhance my scientific background in order for me to evolve in research. Having participated in the Euroscola Programme which was conducted in the European Parliament in Strasburg and my election as secretary of a 150 group of students in order to present our views concerning the protection of the environment, provided me with gain of knowledge concerning various institutions and decision-making processes in financial, cultural, economic, political and social issues in Europe and enhanced my leadership skills. The science focus of the courses on Management and Public Health Problems will once again make me a competent researcher.

Through this educational activity, I will be able to discuss scientific matters, lifetime experiences, get examples of the evolution of different careers in science and be given crucial scientific thinking advices from the acclaimed scientists. This tremendously profitable learning experience will help me grow as a scientist myself and I truly hope I can be given this unique opportunity.