Meet a Greek investigator
Constantine Stratakis
M.D., D(Med)Sc
Eunice Kennedy Shriver
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Bethesda, USA

1st WHBA post-graduate symposium on Translational Medicine
University of Ioannina
February 22-24, 2013

Keynote Lecture
Nobel Laureate Professor
Dr. Harald zur Hausen

Hellenic Biomedical activities around the World

Check for the WHBA group on Linkedin

World Hellenic Biomedical News
Volume 3, Issue 3
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Meet a Greek investigator
Constantine Stratakis, NICHD-NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA
10th World Hellenic Biomedical Congress
November 22-25, 2012
Nicosia, Cyprus

Scientific Program
November 22, 2012
Venue: Major Atrium, Medical School,
University of Nicosia

7.00pm: Opening Ceremony
Addresses by:
Chairman of the Organizing Committee
University of Nicosia Representative
President of the PanCyprian Medical Association
President of the WHBA

7.20pm: Music Recital by Cyprus Young Strings Soloists

7.40pm: Keynote lecture
Professor Kyriacos Athanasiou, University of California at Davis
“Trail-blazing a commercialization pathway in academia: From paper-napkin designs to saving lives”

8.20pm: Cocktail Reception

November 23, 2012
Venue: UNESCO Aphitheatre, Main Campus,
University of Nicosia

Session 1 – Clinical Genetics and Neurology
Moderator: Philippos Patsalis, PhD, Chief Executive Medical Director CING

9.00 – 9.20: Kyriacos Kyriacou, PhD
Department of Electron Microscopy/Molecular Pathology of CING
“Familial breast cancer genetics”

9.20 – 9.40: Violetta Christofidou Anastasiadou, PhD
Department of Clinical Genetics of CING & Archbishop Makarios II Hospital
“Genetic testing and counseling for hereditary cancer syndromes in Cyprus”

9.40 – 10.00: Kleopas Kleopa, PhD
Neurology Clinic C and Neuroscience Lab of CING
“Inherited demyelinating disorders of the nervous system”

10.00 – 10.20: Carolina Sismani, PhD
Department of Cytogenetics & Genomics of CING
“Array-CGH in clinical practice”

10.20 – 10.40 Discussion

Coffee Break

Session 2 – Cancer & Immunology
Moderator: Petros Karayiannis, PhD: Imperial College

11.00-11.25: Dennis Galanakis, MD
Stony Brook University in New York, USA
“Cancer and thrombosis”

11.25-11.50: P Kountourakis, MD PhD
Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre
“Recent advances in the management of ovarian cancer”

11.50-12.15: George Petrikkos, MD, PhD
4th Dept of Internal Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, “ATTIKON” University Hospital
“The evolving threat of antimicrobial resistance”

12.15-12.40: Petros Karayiannis, BSc, PhD,FIBMS, FRCPath (virology)
Imperial College, UK
“Current developments in the treatment of chronic viral hepatitis”

12.40: Poster viewing and lunch

14.30: Excursion or visit to the Medical School of the University of Nicosia and the Cyprus Institute for Neurology & Genetics
November 24, 2012
UNESCO Amhitheatre

Session 3 – Metabolic Syndrome
Moderator: George S. Potamitis, MD, Gastroenterologist
9:00 – 9:25: Doros Loizou, MD
Internal Medicine, Diabetologist
"Metabolic Syndrome and Insulin Resistance"

9:25 – 9:50: Yiannis Stefanou, MD
Apollonion Hospital, Nicosia
"Metabolic Syndrome and the heart"

9:50 – 10:15: Nicos Angelides, MD
Ex-Director, Dept of Vascular Surgery, Nicosia General Hospital
"Metabolic Syndrome and the Vascular System"

10:15 – 10:40: Theodora Demetriou, MD
Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist, Paphos General Hospital
"Metabolic Syndrome and the liver"

Coffee Break

Session 4 – Cardiovascular Disease
Moderators: Dennis Garalis, MD, PhD, MPH, FACC, Rush University Medical Centre
Petros Agathangelou, MD, President of the Cyprus Society of Cardiology

11:00 – 11:25: John A. Stathopoulos, MD, PhD, FACC, FSCAI, FSVM, Columbia University, New York, USA
"Peripheral Arterial Disease: Clinical importance and treatment"

11:25 – 11:50: Philippos Triposkiadis, MD
University of Thessaly, Div. of Cardiology, University Hospital, Greece
"The sympathetic nervous system in heart failure: pathophysiology and clinical implications"

11:50 – 12:15: Antonis Polydorou, MD
Department of Hemodynamics, Evaggelismos General Hospital, Greece
"Recent Advances on Endovascular Therapy"

12:15 – 12:40: Panayiotis Avramides, MD, MBBS, FRCP, MRCP, FESC, FSCAI, FACC, FAHA
Dept of Cardiology, Limassol General Hospital
"The current treatment of heart failure with devices"

12.40pm: Poster viewing and lunch

1.30pm: Poster presentation (Unesco Theatre)
5 minutes of 8 best posters with 1 question allowed

Session 5 – Innovative Surgical and Medical Approaches for Diagnosis and Treatment
Moderator: Adonis Ioannides MD, University of Nicosia

3.00pm – 3:25: D Papamichael, MD
Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre
"Systemic therapy and use of biomarkers in colorectal cancer FRCP"

3:25 – 3:50: Melpo Christofidou-Solomidou, PhD
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
"Novel nutritional agents with antioxidant properties in acute and chronic lung disease - bench to bedside"

3.50 – 4:15: Vassilis Hadjianastassiou, DM(Oxon) FEBVS(Vasc Surg) FRCS(Gen Surg) BMBCh(Oxon) BSc, Director, Transplantation Unit, Nicosia General Hospital
PancreasTransplantation – the first operation in Cyprus and a review of the benefits

4.15 – 4:45: Konstantinos Drosatos, PhD
Columbia University, Department of Medicine,
"Preventing sepsis-mediated cardiac dysfunction by stimulation of energy production"

Coffee Break

Session 6 – “Mind or body?”
Moderator: Nickandros Bouras, MD, PhD - KIng's College London, UK

16:30 – 16:55: Gabriel S Panayi, ScD, MD, FARCP
Guy's Hospital GKT School of Medicine, Kings College London, UK
"Body pain: a psychological construct or an abnormality in CNS chemistry"

16:55 – 17:20: Pavlos Kymissis, MD, FAPA
St. George's Univ. of London Medical School at the Univ. of Nicosia, Cyprus
"A Systems Approach to the Body Mind Connection"

17:20 – 17:45: Eleni Palazidou, MD PhD MRCP, FRCPSYCH, East London Foundation NHS University Trust, London, UK
"The Psychobiology of Depression"

17:45 – 18:10: Andy Zamar, MD, MBBCh, LRCP, MRCPsych, The London Psychiatry Center, UK
"PROLONG™, a recently licensed treatment for premature ejaculation in Europe: Review of physiology and clinical data"

18:10 pm
Closing session Summary of the meeting and remarks
Petros Karayiannis, PhD chairman of the organizing committee

8:00pm: Conference dinner
1st Post-graduate Symposium on Translational Medicine for residents and post-doctoral researchers

Focus on:
Neuroscience and Psychiatry
Immunity and Inflammation
Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease

Organized by the
World Hellenic Biomedical Association

Supported by
The University of Ioannina
Keynote Lecture
Nobel Laureate Professor Dr. Harald zur Hausen

February 22-24, 2013, Ioannina, Greece
2nd Summer School in Medical & Biosciences Research & Management

Monemvasia & Sparta Lakonias, Greece
May 26 – June 4, 2013

The World Hellenic Biomedical Association is organizing the 2nd Summer School in Medical & Biosciences Research and Management, which will take place in Monemvasia and Sparta, Laconia, Greece on May 26 – June 4, 2013 for undergraduate and graduate students of universities in Greece and abroad.

The 2nd summer school is the continuation of the one that took place in Mani, Laconia and Athens in May 2012 and included 39 prominent graduate and undergraduate students of medical and biosciences background, who were selected among 140 applicants from 23 countries. The students attended classes given by top-notch experts from the most advanced medical and biosciences research centers in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Greece, as well as from the Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology industry.

The program of the 2013 summer school will be divided in two parts. The 1st part is taking place in the beautiful scenery of Monemvasia, Peloponnese on May 26 to June 2, 2013. For this part 2 plenary speakers of worldwide reputation (George Chrousos - University of Athens and George Kollias – Fleming Institute, Greece) and 12 instructors (Lefteris Diamandis – University of Toronto, Diomedes Logothetis – Virginia Commonwelath University, Evangelos Michelakis – University of Alberta, Canada, Sakis Mantalaris – Imperial College, Aristidis Moustakas – Uppsala University, Sweden, Spyros Kollias – ETH Switzerland, Constantine Anagnostopoulos – Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, Evi Giannakakou – Weill Cornel Medical College, USA, Kyriakos Kypros – University of Patras, George Mentis – Columbia University, USA, Nikos Scarmeas – University of Athens & Columbia University, USA, Despina Sanoudou – University of Athens) will present the most recent breakthroughs and current trends in basic and clinical research in Cancer Biology and oncology, Neurology and Neurosciences, Cardiovascular Biology and Cardiology and Stem Cells that will be chaired by Litsa Kranias (University of Cincinnati Medical College, USA) and will host a keynote lecture by Walter J. Koch (Director of the Center for Translational Medicine at Temple University, USA & chairman of the Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Council of the American Heart Association). Lectures will also be given by Evangelos Michelakis (University of Alberta, Canada), Constantine Anagnostopoulos (Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens) and Anastasios Lymperopoulos (Nova Southeastern University, USA).

Lymeropoulos (Nova Southeastern University, USA) During the 2nd part that will be taking place in Sparta on Jun 3-4 the students will attend lectures about drug development, clinical research and bio-industry by Panos Macheras (University of Athens), Angelos Stergiou (ΣΕLLΑΣ Clinicals, Greece), Dimitris Sakellariou (Merck Group, Greece), Nassos Alevizopoulos (Zestagen & Metaplasis, Switzerland).

Detailed information about the program and online application form are available on the website of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association.
Meet with Hellenes Investigators from around the World

Research Activities of the group of Constantine A. Stratakis

Section on Endocrinology and Genetics, Program in Developmental Endocrinology and Genetics, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-1862, USA

National Institutes of Health, Building 10, CRC, Room 1-3330 East Laboratories, 10 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA.

E-mail: stratakc@mail.nih.gov

Career steps - In 1983, I entered the Medical School of University of Athens (MSUAth). In 1984, at the Unit of Endocrinology of the Department of Pharmacology, I started working as an Assistant to the Director, Prof. M. Batrinos, an Endocrinologist and an absolutely wonderful person, a master teacher, and astute clinician. Prof. Batrinos introduced me to endocrine thinking, understanding biostatistics, and their application in clinical science, and showed me how a clinician can be a scientist. He also introduced me to an associate of his, Dr. S. Pitoulis, a biochemist who had just returned from France and was setting up a radioimmunoassay (RIA)-based laboratory, a first for Greece, back then. So, here I was, in the fall of 1984, a second-year medical student and at the age of 18 years, setting up RIAs, labelling radiotracers with iodine, purifying first and second antibodies, getting my first glimpse of how to produce monoclonal antibodies (at the Agricultural School of Athens, Department of Veterinary Medicine, with collaborators) (2) and, most importantly, applying all these in patient samples: measuring hormonal levels in the sera of patients from Prof. Batrinos’ clinic (3). My Thesis was on the measurement of insulin-like growth factors (IGF-I and IGF-II) freed from their binding proteins (4, 5) and the application of these assays in diurnal pituitary hormonal studies – this was the first time anybody could measure free IGFs in Greece. The antibodies and most materials were home-made, something that I took particular pride in, since at the time almost everything that we used in Greece had to be imported and paid with precious foreign currency. At the same time, I worked, first as a phlebotomist and then as a laboratory technician for the Radioisotopes & Hormones Laboratory of a private labor & delivery hospital, Mitera. This was the era of limited ultrasound use (too new and expensive); all high-risk pregnancies were followed by daily estriol and progesterone measurements. I was responsible for these assays and the delivery of results to the caring physicians. I was convinced then that Endocrinology not only combined my interests in physics and chemistry with biology, but it was also an essential field of Medicine. I was determined to combine my fascination with hematology-oncology (6, 7) with Endocrinology and decided to dedicate my life to the study of endocrine tumors. In 1987, with Prof. Batrinos’ recommendation I received a stipend to spend a summer at the hospital Cochin, Paris, France. It was yet another life-changing experience: now, I was rounding and presenting patients to Prof. Luton and Prof. Bricaire, almost mythical names in Endocrinology. The study of pituitary and adrenal gland function was now definitely my interest; Prof. Bertagna, a Luton disciple, was among my teachers and is to this day a valuable collaborator. In 1988, after I returned to Greece from France, I received a scholarship award to spend time at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Dr. G. Chrousos’ laboratory. I participated in the identification of the first human mutations of the glucocorticoid receptors (GRs) (8) causing cortisol resistance. I followed medical rounds at the NIH Clinical Center and was so lucky to be exposed to many more wonderful clinician scientists and outstanding teachers.
(Drs. Lynn Loriaux, Roy Hertz, Gordon Cutler and others); as much as I liked Paris and despite a job offer by Prof. Luton, I fell in love with NIH. I was determined to continue my work there, so a few weeks after I graduated in June 1989, I found myself back in Bethesda, MD. I continued my research there, finishing up my Thesis and planning my next steps: I had to finish my clinical training. George Chrousos convinced me that given my interests in endocrine oncology, Pediatrics rather than Internal Medicine (which was my focus in France) was better suited for me – the rest is history...I was accepted by the Georgetown University Department of Pediatrics, Washington, DC, where I am clinical faculty to this day. This is how and why) I became a Pediatric Endocrinologist! Medical Genetics was a second love – I realized that to study the endocrine tumors I was so interested in, I had to get additional training in genetics, a field that was in the 90s – and still is, perhaps now more than ever – at the forefront of Medicine. I owe my introduction into genetics to Dr. Owen Rennert, a paediatrician, a geneticist and Chairman of Pediatrics at Georgetown University Hospital (GUH) at the time. Dr. Rennert has been my mentor and friend since; to this day, we still see patients together at the NIH Clinical Center. I have to say that I was finally convinced that this was the right track for me, when Dr. Francis Collins, then newly appointed Director of the National Center for Human Genomics Research (which today is the National Human Genome Research Institute or NHGRI) came to GUH for one of our weekly grand rounds. His talk (as always) was so inspiring that at the end I was convinced that with proper training I would be able to find the genetic causes of the endocrine tumors I was interested in. I talked briefly to Dr. Collins after rounds, and this was it. By 1996, I was board-certified in Pediatrics, Pediatric Endocrinology, and Medical Genetics and accepted the offer by Dr. Arthur Levine to start a small laboratory at the NIH (Unit on Genetics & Endocrinology) co-mentored by Dr. Chrousos and Dr. Carolyn Bondy, an absolutely wonderful clinician-scientist who had just started her now seminal work on Turner syndrome. With Chrousos’ unique insights in human physiology, Bondy’s help in setting up my laboratory, and Rennert’s continuing advice from Georgetown, I was set, and... amazingly lucky: just the right people and combination of talents to learn from!

It is because of the above that when I received, in 2009, the Endocrine Society’s Ernst Oppenheimer Award, I dedicated it to my mentors. This was recognition that the many people that helped me and taught me how to “do stuff” at such a young age, did not waste their time. Any recognition for “my” work is really recognition of my many mentors – they deserve it as much as I do and maybe more than I do. I dedicated this Award to all who helped my career so early, some of whom are mentioned above (but not all, there are many more!). But, there was someone I first met in 1994, who deserves a special mention: Dr. J. Aidan Carney – now my friend and collaborator but truly also my mentor. A physician par excellence, a true clinical investigator to whom endocrine pathology owes a host of diseases and myriad observations; and as Dr. Carney always (and proudly) says, all of that without a cent of grant funding (!). To paraphrase a song I liked as a teenager, Dr. Carney doesn’t “just like Medicine; he loves it” (and
lives for it!). He did not need any grants to immerse himself in what he loved most – what a lesson for all of us clinician scientists! The award should also go to my French colleagues, the friends I made at Hospital Cochin, Paris, France, back in 1987. Prof. Luton introduced me then to his successor Xavier Bertagna and he, in turn, to my best friend and collaborator now Jerome Bertherat. Just wonderful scientists, astute clinicians, and great people....

In 2011, I was named Scientific Director of the Division of Intramural Research at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Established in 1962, NICHD’s research mission is “to understand the basic mechanisms that transform cells into healthy and effectively-functioning individuals and to enhance clinical practice to prevent and ameliorate conditions that influence the lifelong health of women, children, and persons with disabilities”. NICHD’s most important achievement has been to provide a home for such a vast area of science and doing it so successfully for half a century now: this year, NICHD celebrates 50 years of these impressive achievements, from childhood vaccinations to the improved survival of premature infants, from developmental biology, endocrinology, reproductive medicine to cell biology and new imaging techniques, behavioral science and rehabilitation medicine, and numerous other discoveries and applications. NICHD’s extraordinary accomplishments exemplify what science at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is all about, bench-to-bedside and back, thus serving NIH’s mission “to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability” and doing so in the specific populations of women, children, and persons with disabilities. It has been a privilege to work for NICHD, in one or another role, since 1988. Clearly, when I walked in the Bethesda campus as a student in November 1988, I never imagined that one day I would be honored to be chosen as the leader of NICHD’s

The team led by Dr. Constantine Stratakis (front left), head of the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development’s Section on Endocrinology and Genetics, is researching the genetic causes of pediatric endocrine tumors. The lab team includes (clockwise from top right) Nirmal Gokarn, Dr. Madson Almeida, Dr. Anya Rothenbuhler, Dr. Anelia Horvath, Stratakis, Dr. Maria Nesterova, Dr. Fabio Faucz, and Kit Man Tsang.
intramural science (Division of Intramural Research or DIR). It is true that we live in an era of budgetary challenges which make new initiatives harder to accomplish. However, it is also an era with tremendous explosion of knowledge; the research tools that are available today, I could not even dream of when I was a graduate student. Fostering the existing outstanding intramural research but also recruiting and mentoring new investigators for our laboratories are my goals. Cell and developmental biology, the pioneering use of animal models of human disease such as zebrafish, developmental neurosciences, behavioural and reproductive science, pediatric imaging and basic biophysics in addition to perinatal, gynaecological, endocrine, and genetic investigations, are just some of the areas where NICHD DIR researchers literally lead their respective fields. I also hope that we will expand, in new exciting areas of science that will be determined after strategically planning for our future, a process that has just started in earnest at the NICHD DIR and will be completed within the next year. Finally, we are all excited at the NICHD and highly supportive of what is going on across NIH, the many new initiatives such as the opening of the NIH Clinical Center to the extramural investigators (http://clinicalcenter.nih.gov/translational-research-resources/index.html). NIH is a great place to be at right now. No wonder why we attract so many applications from phenomenal scientists in our new recruitment efforts, such as the Earl Stadtman Investigator Search (http://irp.nih.gov/stadtman).

Current research in Dr. Stratakis’ laboratory – In the last 15 years, our laboratory has made numerous discoveries both clinical (from imaging adrenal and pituitary tumors and their biochemical diagnosis, to treatment) and basic: the genetics of various endocrine conditions, their molecular biology, the mechanisms of tumor formation. Our laboratory has worked on most “endocrine” tumor genes that we know today: MEN1, PRKAR1A, AIP, TP53, cKIT, and many others.

We recently identified succinate dehydrogenase mutations in pituitary tumors where an association between pheochromocytomas and pituitary tumors was found in succinate dehydrogenase defects. This is an interesting finding (9, 10); it is still preliminary because it has to be confirmed in other and maybe larger cohorts. Having said that, I already know of several other families with pituitary tumors and succinate dehydrogenase mutations; thus, it is most likely a real association. Mitochondrial oxidation defects have never before been linked to pituitary tumors, so, this association opens up a new area of research which may lead to new treatments for these lesions.

Our involvement with succinate dehydrogenase defects grew out of our research on adrenal tumors (12). After the identification of PRKAR1A as the molecule responsible for Carney complex (13), we found out that most pediatric cortisol-producing hyperplasias actually do not bear mutations in this gene (14, 15). We then went on to describe what is a new disorder that we named “isolated micronodular adrenocortical disease” (iMAD) (15). We are actively working on the genetic defects leading to the various types of iMADs. This research led to the discovery that defects in cyclic AMP-binding phosphodiesterases (PDEs) like PDE11A and PDE8B are associated with adrenal (16-19) and, in fact, other endocrine tumors (20, 21). I was particularly happy to see a PDE8B knock-out mouse model published last year by Dr. Beavo’s group (22); this mouse developed ACTH-independent Cushing syndrome nicely confirming our human molecular genetic data. We are not a molecular pharmacology laboratory but we continue to be interested in PDEs, and while we are looking for additional genes leading to iMAD, we collaborate with some of the best leaders in the PDE field to explore these molecules as potential therapeutic targets for adrenal diseases (23). Finally, we are also interested in finding the genes for the adult forms of adrenal hyperplasias – namely what has been called massive macronodular adrenocortical disease (MMAD) or ACTH-independent macronodular hyperplasias (AIMAHs). In an interesting twist of fate, we described the first mitochondrial enzyme defect leading to MMAD in the form of a fumarate hydratase (FH) mutation in association with MMAD (24) at about the same time we studied the succinate dehydrogenase mutations in other tumors (25). However, MMAD is highly heterogeneous, probably more so than iMAD, and although a few families with autosomal dominant inheritance have been described (26) the gene that accounts for the majority of the cases of MMAD remains elusive. We are running various genome-wide studies to identify the MMAD gene(s).

Following up on our studies of cortisol-producing adrenal hyperplasias, we also have studied aldosterone-producing lesions. The first such study linked familial hyperaldosteronism to chromosome 7 (27); however, a gene has yet to be identified there. We continue genome-wide searches to identify genes that are responsible for
aldosterone-producing lesions. Our team at the NIH now sees a large cohort of patients with both adenomas and hyperplasias and we offer surgical therapy, genetic testing, and counselling. The recent discovery of KCNJ5 mutations (28) in some of these patients allowed us to subgroup our patients in genetically distinct groups that are better suited for genome-wide studies.

REFERENCES


9. Xekouki P, Stratakis CA. Succinate dehydrogenase (SDHx) mutations in pituitary tumors: could this be a new role for mitochondrial complex II and/or Krebs cycle defects? Endocr Relat Cancer. 2012 (In press)


GREKA, the Greek Society of Academics in North Rhein-Westfalia, Germany, was co-organizer of 3 different concerts in Dortmund, Cologne and Duesseldorf, Germany which were organized as a charity event for the Doctors of the World Greece with the scope of support with medicine compounds for Greece. All three concerts were a great success (photo of the concert).

GREKA is organizing a talk on the topic 'Aneurysm of the coeliac aortic artery: diagnosis and treatment on December 2, 2012

Hellenic Medical Society of the UK

This year the HMS-UK commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death of the Greek medical pioneer and one of the greatest researchers of the 20th Century, Dr Georgios Papanikolaou. The event will be held under the auspices of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture and the Embassy of Greece in London.

Original research papers in the fields of medicine, biomedical sciences or related areas have been invited. The Prize consists of an award certificate and £250. 4 candidates from the Society will participate in the competition. Candidates must be 38 years or younger and below Consultant or Senior Scientist status, or the equivalent in other areas. They should be members or eligible for membership of the Hellenic Medical Society, UK. Consultants and senior scientists and group leaders are invited to encourage their juniors to enter the competition.

Recent events

Hippocratic Oration, Friday 19th October 2012
"From Hippocrates to 21st century Nutritional Medicine"
Prof Joe Millward PhD, DSc RPHNutr, Emeritus Professor of Human Nutrition, Department of Nutrition and Metabolism, Institute of Biosciences and Medicine, University of Surrey, Guildford.
& Dr Eleni Tsiompanou MD, DipHPM, MSc Nutritional Medicine, Researcher in History of Medicine, Physician at Penny Brohn Cancer Care, Palliative Medicine, Kingston Hospital & Princess Alice Hospice.

2012 Annual Dinner Dance, Saturday 29th September 2012
"The role of financial markets in the Greek debt crisis"
Under the auspices of the Embassy of Greece, UNESCO and the Hellenic Institute for Culture

To mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the Greek medical pioneer

Professor George N. Papanikolaou (1883-1962)

The Hellenic Medical Society of the UK presents

“I only live to serve life” - 2012 Papanikolaou Prize

Saturday 24 November, at 18.00

Great Hall, Hellenic Centre
16 – 18 Paddington Street,
London W1U 5AS

Programme:

18.00  Papanikolaou Prize: Candidates’ Research Presentations

19.00  Address by the President of the Royal College of Gynaecologists,
       Dr Anthony D. Falconer DM FRCOG

19.10  ‘The impact of the Pap Test on the lives of women’,
       Dr Margaret Stavrou, Histopathologist and Past HMS-UK President

19.25  Two short films on the life of George Papanikolaou
       produced for the occasion by the University of Athens Medical School and
       the Hellenic Foundation for Culture

19.45  Presentation of the Papanikolaou Prize 2012

20.00  Reception

The event is open to the public and is organised in association with:
Dear members of the WHBA network,

We invite you to join us in this year’s Scholarship Gala celebration in support of our youth in the arduous path for education. Our Society has a distinguished record of sponsorship for American students of Hellenic descent attending medical schools in the United States. This mission has been recently expanded to support postgraduate training in fellowship programs at leading academic medical centers, where our Society is recognized and respected for the achievements of its members. High school students with special interest in the sciences have also been acknowledged through our grants and awards program.

This year we introduce ‘Celebrating Excellence in Science’, a bold initiative of inaugural support for the Science Program at St. Demetrios High School in Astoria, a school with proud tradition and distinguished graduates in one of the Hellenic-American community’s major population centers. Our youth is our treasure and its exemplary education is an imperative we cannot ignore. Inspired teachers in our high school science courses lay the foundation for successful careers and benefit our country and all humanity.

We urge you to contribute generously to this noble cause and to demonstrate your support to our youth with your presence at our events on December 7 and 8.

For the Executive Board 2010 - 2012

Nicholas H.E. Mezitis, M.D., President
Mini Symposium on Epigenetics

Speakers

Manolis Kellis, PhD
Associate Professor, MIT
“Regulatory Genomics and Epigenomics of Human Disease”
Departments of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, MIT
Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

Dimitrios Iliopoulos, PhD
Associate Professor, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine
Center for Systems Biology
“Systems Biology Approaches to study Inflammation and Epigenomics Circuits in Cancer”
Prior Events

1. **Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia Community Service project at the St Thomas festival**, October 4, 5, 6 and 7th. Working in conjunction with the Daughter of Penelope, HMS members provided blood pressures and medical information on this year's topic of Lung Cancer. This project supported the Jim Fifis Lung Cancer Research Fund and all donations were directed to the fund. Many thanks to members Kathy Horiates RN, Dr. Isa Velez, Dr. Denis Hadjiliadis, Dr. Tara Morrison, Sandy Tzaferos PharmD and Dr. Mike Moussouttas as well as the members of Cooper Outreach program and CVS Pharmacists Gina Papadopoulos and Katherine Iliadis for providing influenza vaccinations. The Medical Society is dedicated to improving the health of our community.

2. **Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia Continuing Medical Education program October 27th, 2012.** At the Philadelphia Heart Institute, Hellenic Medical Society organized an excellent CME program for the benefit of our friends and members. A special thank you to all our speakers for their talents and efforts in making this program a success: Photis Galanis MD, Vasilios Velahos MD, Frances Zappalla DO, Dean Karalis MD, Frank Leone MD and Stephanie Morris DO. Keynote speaker Mr. John Katsanis, President and CEO of Temple University Hospital gave an excellent and informative lecture discussing health care reform. Many thanks to our education committee, Michael Moussouttas MD and Alex Poulathas DO for organizing the event and for the many participants for braving the hurricane warnings to attend. The feedback and evaluations were excellent and the Society looks forward to our next CME event.

3. **Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia Student Scholarship program.** The HMS supports a medical student and allied health student scholarship each year. As of May 1, applications are being sent to local (NJ, PA, DE) colleges and universities. The Award will be presented at our November Dinner meeting. Our Scholarship committee is currently reviewing the applications and more details to follow.

4. **Hellenic Medical Society medical Student/Resident Exchange program.** As part of this program, the HMS has supported our first medical student, Ms. Darilena Karaviti in her pursuit of a residency in the US. Her story and photos will be posted on the HMS website and submitted to our local media outlets for distribution. Please let the Society know of any interested student or resident at HMSPHL@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

1. **Call for Nominations of the Board of Directors** of the Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia. As per the HMS bylaws, elections of half (5 seats) of the Board of Directors is to occur every year. Members in Good standings of the Society are eligible to run for the Board and I would encourage all interested members to contact the Society at HMSPHL@gmail.com

2. **Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia Fall meeting,** November 2012. The Board of Directors is organizing our semi-annual members meeting during the last week of November. Topics include the presentation of the Scholarships, Board elections and presentation of the ongoing programs and future directions of the HMS. More to Follow.

3. **Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia to Co-sponsor Holiday Party.** Working with the local Philadelphia Hellenic Professional organizations, a holiday party is being planned and more details to follow.
Support the mission of the WHBA

The World Hellenic Biomedical Association has established a continuously expanding global network that now consists of over 1,500 physicians and bioscientists.

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<tr>
<th>Donation</th>
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<td>$10</td>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
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<td>$20</td>
<td>WHBA summer school</td>
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<td>Summer school and World Hellenic Biomedical Conference</td>
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<td>All current activities, scholarships and research funding support</td>
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