



World  
Hellenic  
Biomedical  
Association  
WHBA, Inc.

# 11th International Summer School in Medical Biosciences Research & Management

May 14-20, 2023

[www.whba1990.org](http://www.whba1990.org)



## Organizing Committee

### Co-chairs

**Christos Lisgaras** (WHBA Summer School Class of 2014 & 2015)

Currently: Post-doctoral Fellow, New York University Langone Health

**Efrosini Tsouko** (WHBA Summer School Class of 2014)

Currently: Post-doctoral research associate, Baylor college of Medicine

### Junior members

**Despoina Eugenia Kiouisi** (WHBA Summer School Class of 2020)

Currently: PhD Candidate, Democritus University of Thrace

**Christina Niavi** (WHBA summer school 2019)

Currently: PhD candidate, Emory University

**Angelos Kollias** (WHBA Summer School Class of 2021)

Currently: Ph.D. student, University of Lausanne

## Sunday May 14, 2023

### OPENING CEREMONY

Welcoming Remarks from the Organizing Committee and WHBA Board

**“The Roy & Diana Vagelos Opening Keynote Lecture”**

**Vassiliki Boussiotis, M.D., PhD, Harvard University**

Introduction by: Eleftheria Ledaki, WHBA President

6:30 – 8:00 pm

8:00 pm

**Dinner sponsored by Vouyiouklakis Family and the Prefecture of West Peloponnese**

## Monday May 15, 2023

9:00 – 10:00 am	<b>Neuroscience session</b> Insights into the neurobiology of social communication <b>Constantina Theofanopoulou, Ph.D., The Rockefeller University and City University of New York</b>
10:30 – 12:00	<b>Drug discovery and AI</b> SARS-CoV-2 therapeutics, replicons, and drug resistance <b>Stefan Sarafianos, Emory University</b> Tackling the tumor microenvironment with tumor responsive compounds <b>Andreas Tzakos, University of Ioannina</b>
12:00 – 2:00 pm	LUNCH/NETWORKING
2:00 – 2:45 pm	<b>Cardiovascular session</b> Current advances in intracoronary imaging <b>Elias Sanidas, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</b>
3:00 – 3:45	Raising investment: do's and don'ts <b>Eleftheria Ledaki, Associate Director, Business Alliances, BioNTech and WHBA President</b>
4:00 – 5:30 pm	<b>Soft skills CV, Cover letter and application tips</b>
5:30 – 6:00 pm	QUIZ
6:30 – 8:00 pm	MEET THE PROFESSORS
8:00 – 10:00 pm	NETWORKING

## Tuesday May 16, 2023

9:00 – 10:00 am	Onassis Scholarships and funding insights <b>Stella Tatsi, Onassis Foundation</b>
10:30 – 12:00	Osteoimmunology: Immune bone loss by the IL-23/IL-17A axis <b>Iannis Adamopoulos, Harvard Medical School</b> Personalized Therapeutics: From individuals to populations <b>George Patrinos, University of Patras</b>
12:00 – 2:00 pm	LUNCH/NETWORKING
2:00 – 3:30 pm	<b>Start-up journeys</b> Entrepreneurial endeavors: navigating the start-up landscape in Biotech <b>Steven Boyages, Chair Intelligent Bio Solutions</b> Translating Research: from Systems Biology to Entrepreneurship <b>Leonidas Alexopoulos, National Technical University of Athens</b>
4:00 – 4:45 pm	<b>Investing in life science startups</b> Patenting Compositions and Methods for Therapeutic Applications <b>George Georgellis, Managing Director at Looels IP Ltd</b>
5:00 – 5:30 pm	<b>Informal session: Q&amp;A on start-up presentations</b>
5:30 – 6:00 pm	QUIZ
6:30 – 8:00 pm	MEET THE PROFESSORS
8:00 – 10:00 pm	NETWORKING

## Wednesday May 17, 2023

- 8:00 – 10:00 am **Research in biotech and industry**  
From Lab to Launch:  
The Exciting Journey of Building Three Biotech Startups  
**Marianna Prokopi-Demetriades, Theramir Co-founder**  
Clinical research: challenges and opportunities  
**Maria Koutsopoulou, SVP, Head of Global Development Operations at Merck Group**
- 10:30 – 11:30 am **Industry Keynote Lecture**  
Rare genetic disorders and rare protective alleles: two polar opposites that provide unprecedented biological insights  
**Aris Economides, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc**
- 11:30 – 12:30 MEET THE PROFESSORS
- 12:30 – 2:00 pm LUNCH/NETWORKING
- 2:00 – 7:00 pm **Excursion**
- 9:00 – 11:00 pm NETWORKING

## Thursday May 18, 2023

- 8:00-10:00 am **Immunology seen by different lenses**  
Beyond Inhibitor Receptors; Intracellular Circuits of T cell Function  
**Filippos Porichis, EMD Serono Merck**  
Fibroblasts in health and disease  
**George Kollias, BSRC Fleming**  
Dissecting the cancer microenvironment using bioengineering approaches  
**Ioannis Zervantonakis, University of Pittsburgh**
- 10:30 – 12:00 **Student presentations**
- 12:00 – 2:00 pm LUNCH/NETWORKING
- 2:00 – 4:00 pm **Immuno- Oncology**  
The pursuit of biomarkers in the management of patients with urothelial cancer  
**Petros Grivas, University of Washington School of Medicine**  
Monoclonal antibodies design to activate the patients' immune response against cancer: to the clinic and beyond  
**Sophia Karagiannis, Kings College London**  
Cancer Research and Therapy in the CRISPR/Cas9 Era  
**Thales Papagiannakopoulos, NYU, USA**
- 4:30 – 6:00 pm **Immunotherapeutics**  
CAR T cells: from cancer to autoimmunity  
**Dimitrios Mougiakakos, University of Magdeburg, DE**  
Biology and therapeutic applications of invariant NKT cells  
**Anastasios Karadimitris, Imperial College London**
- 6:30 – 7:00 pm QUIZ
- 7:00 – 8:30 pm MEET THE PROFESSORS
- 8:30 – 10:30 pm NETWORKING

## Friday May 19, 2023

- 9:00 – 10:00 am      **Autophagy in neurodegeneration and ageing**  
**Nektarios Tavernarakis, IMBB FORTH**
- 10:30 – 12:00      **Neuronal computation**  
Defining, monitoring and manipulating cell types in the living brain of animals and humans  
**Costas Anastassiou, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**  
Microtechnologies and Bioelectronics for preclinical and clinical Neural Interfaces  
**Nicolas Vachicouras, Neurosoft Bioelectronics SA**
- 12:00 – 2:00 pm      LUNCH/NETWORKING
- 2:00 – 3:30 pm      **Machine learning and AI in Medicine**  
Machine Learning in Medicine: Translational and Clinical applications of medical AI  
**Theo Zanos, Feinstein Institutes, NY**  
Biomolecular engineering and synthetic biology approaches for the treatment of diseases caused by problematic protein folding  
**Georgios Skretas, Biomedical Sciences Research Center “Alexander Fleming”**
- 4:00 – 6:00 pm      **Student Presentations**
- 6:00 – 7:30 pm      **Omics & Molecular Biology**  
Regulatory Genomics and Epigenomics  
**Dimitris Thanos, BRFAA**  
Systems Biology and omics technologies in the era of Precision Medicine  
**Michael Aivaliotis, AUTH**
- 7:30 – 8:00      QUIZ
- 8:00 – 9:30      **Academic Closing Keynote Lecture:**  
**Apostolia Tsimberidou**  
University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- 9:30 pm      Evening at leisure

## Saturday May 20, 2023

- 8:00 – 9:00 am      **DEI session**
- 9:00 – 10:00 am      CLOSING SESSION
- Best Performance Awards for ‘Best Start- up’**  
*presented by TBD*
- GROUP PHOTO**