

World Hellenic Biomedical News

Volume II Issue 3



September 2011



World Hellenic Biomedical Association & Hellenic Cardiological Society
International Lunch Forum
American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2011
Orlando, FL – USA
Sunday November 13, 2011 - 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM - ILF.06, Room W231c



Interview
Paul Kymissis, MD
Former President
of the WHBA executive board

Review article
by the group of
George C. Tsokos, MD, PhD

Harvard Medical School, USA



New England Hellenic
Medical & Dental Society



Expansion of the WHBA network in Australia

**Hellenic Biomedical activities
around the World**

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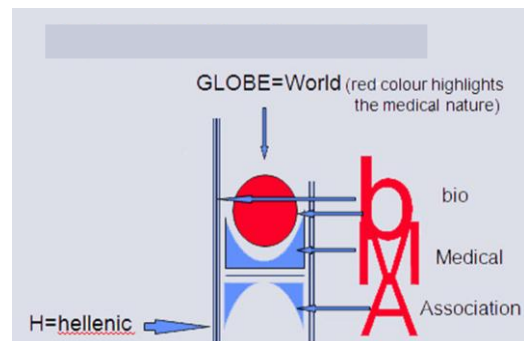
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Alexandros P. Grammatikos and George C. Tsokos



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**World Hellenic Biomedical Association & Hellenic Cardiological Society
International Lunch Forum
American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2011
Orlando, FL – USA**



Sunday November 13, 2011 - 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM - ILF.06, Room W231c

Moderators

Suzanne Oparil, Birmingham, AL

Ioannis Kallikazaros, Athens, Greece

11:35 - **Christodoulos Stefanadis**, University of Athens, Greece

The Systemic Use of Bevacizumab Has a Direct Effect on Left Ventricular Function. A Prospective Echocardiography Study

11:40 - **Leonidas V Athanasopoulos**, Athens, Greece

Predictors of Reverse Remodeling Failure and Survival Following Mitral Valve Repair

11:45 - **Evangelos Oikonomou**, Mol. Cardiology Laboratory, University Cardiology Clinic, Athens, Greece

Different Impact of Habitual Physical Activity on Ventricular Repolarization in Middle Aged and Elderly Men and Women: Ikaria Study

11:50 - **Maria Drakopoulou**, Athens, Greece

Increased Thermal Heterogeneity in Carotid Arteries as a Surrogate Marker for Coronary Artery Disease: First Clinical Application of Microwave Radiometry

11:55 - **Charalambos Vlachopoulos**, University of Athens, Greece

Testosterone in Hypertensive Patients: A Secret Player?

12:00 - **Evangelos D Michelakis**, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Didactic Presentation: Metabolism, Angiogenesis and Emerging Concepts on the Regulation of Right Ventricular Hypertrophy and Failure

12:10 - **Costas Tsioufis**, University of Athens, Greece

Didactic Presentation: Current Perspectives on Hypertension: Target Organ Damage Progression and Therapeutic Challenges

Panel Discussion

Michael Doulas, Greece

Vasilios Papademetriou, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

George Parcharidis, President of the Hellenic Cardiological Society & Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Greece

George D Dangas, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY

Expansion of the WHBA communication network in Australia



The World Hellenic Bioscientific Association has recently initiated an endeavor to expand its communication network within the Australian continent. Konstantinos Biliouris from the University of Minnesota and George Syros from Tufts University, in coordination with the executive board of the WHBA, conducted an online research and identified 300 Greek biomedical researchers in 37 Australian universities. Currently, there is ongoing communication with the Australian scientists that are updated

about WHBA and how their participation would benefit both them and WHBA and the network is growing. This activity abides by the major aim of the WHBA to increase the information flow and interaction among physicians and bioscientists of Hellenic origin or descent at the global level.

10th joint Cyprus-Greek Cardiology Conference

May 4 – 5, 2012- Nicosia, Cyprus

Information & Registration: Cyprus Society of Cardiology

<http://www.cycardio.org/En/Conference.html>

Interview with Dr. Paul Kymissis

Former President of the WHBA executive board

Dr. Kymissis, could you please give us briefly your professional background?

I graduated from the Medical School of the University of Athens. Then I did my residency training in Psychiatry and Neurology in Athens. I received a doctorate degree from Athens Medical School. Following I came to New York and did my residency in Adult and Child Psychiatry and also analytic training at the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health. I was a unit Chief, the Director of outpatients Services at Elmhurst MtSinai Services and then the Director of the Division of Child Psychiatry at New York Medical College. Currently I am a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at New York Medical College and Chief of Psychiatry at Children's Village. I was recently elected to be the Dean of the first Medical School in Cyprus at the University of Nicosia.



How did your relationship with the WHBA begin?

I first got involved in the early 90's when we met in Athens for the annual meeting.

What have the best memorable experiences from your involvement in the WHBA been?

We had three great Conferences where I was actively involved. One in Athens at the Hilton with a participation of over 300 biomedical Scientists from all over the World. The key note speaker was John Brademas from the House of Representatives. Then the meeting in Nicosia with great participation from Cyprus, Greece, the UK and the USA. The meeting in New York at the Grand Hyatt Hotel was a moving experience. We have honored Dr Panayi as the distinguished physician of the Year with the Hellenic Medical Society. The Gala dinner was attended by almost 500 participants.

The WHBA has made a major step by moving its domicile from the United Kingdom to the United States. How do you envision the future of the society following this development?

I believe we need to look beyond the Conferences and activate some old projects like the Journal we had once in London, providing telemedicine Services [We had a Telemedicine Conference in Cyprus when we connected with the UK for an Ophthalmology consultation] Also to connect Research Centers for joint projects and multicenter studies. The Conferences can serve as a meeting forum but also as an opportunity for continuous education. The current Newsletter represents a superb job which needs to be supported and continue.

Based on your experience with the scientific societies of the "Omogeneia" what would your advice to the current and future board members of the WHBA be?

We need to know about each other. In the current times of communication we need to



Photo taken from the Greek Reporter website

develop more avenues between our societies and also between us as individuals.

exposure to clinical experiences. I will be coordinating some of the placements in Cyprus, UK and other sites. Also we are in collaboration with the Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv where many of our students' will have the last two years clinical experience.

How would the WHBA, the participant societies and individual physicians and bioscientists that are affiliated with the society establish a collaborative relationship with new academic institutes like the one you are involved in?

One possibility is to have events organized on the site of the academic institution. Also the WHBA could offer a common Forum for ideas on collaborative research. Another possibility is to have a number of WHBA academic members to serve as visiting faculty for the Medical School.

Thank you Dr. Kymissis for your time and contribution in the success of the WHBA.

Thank you for the opportunity you gave me to communicate my experience and ideas about future activities and priorities that the WHBA might undertake.



Photo taken from the website of the University of Nicosia

develop more avenues between our societies and also between us as individuals.

In the last couple of years you have been involved in the establishment of the medical school of the University of Nicosia. Could you give us some more details on this initiative and your specific role?

This is the first Medical School in Cyprus. It represents a collaborative work between the St George's University of London and the University of Nicosia. I offered to help and was asked to become the Dean of the School. My role will be the help to recruit Faculty and Students and help to coordinate the Clinical Part of the Program. The curriculum is the same as the one in London and includes early

T cell abnormalities in patients with SLE

Alexandros P. Grammatikos and George C. Tsokos*

*Division of Rheumatology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre,
Harvard Medical School, Boston MA 02215, USA*

SUMMARY

Immune function aberrations focused around loss of tolerance to nuclear and cytoplasmic antigens typify systemic lupus erythematosus, a disease which afflicts mostly women. Although autoantibodies and immune complexes are important in the instigation of organ damage it appears that distinct biochemical and molecular aberrations of T cells are prevalent and contribute to the expression of autoimmune pathology. We summarize work which has characterized abnormalities in the antigen-initiated cell signaling process and gene transcription and emphasize molecules which may serve as biomarkers of disease activity and kinases and phosphatases which contribute to T cell malfunction in patients and which in preclinical studies have demonstrated potential clinical value.

INTRODUCTION

SLE is a multisystem autoimmune disorder affecting millions of people worldwide. Despite the fact that treatments that can modulate disease activity without causing significant side effect are urgently needed for these patients, treatment options have more or less remained the same over the past decades. Significant breakthroughs in our understanding of disease pathogenesis have nevertheless taken place in recent years offering hope that such treatments may soon be available.

In particular, T cells have become the focus of intense investigation recently (1-3). T cells are considered to be the gatekeepers of immune responses towards both foreign and, as is the case for SLE, self antigens. Although B cells are well known to be responsible for the production of a multitude of autoantibodies in

these patients, it is T cells that can provide the necessary help signals that will allow B cells to initiate antibody production. It is known that T cells respond to antigens through TCR recognition of MHC-bound peptides presented by antigen presenting cells. After identifying a peptide as foreign a cascade of intracellular signaling events occurs, allowing eventually for the production of the proper combination of costimulatory molecules and cytokines that will activate other immune cells.

T cell activation and migration abnormalities

Lupus T cells, however seem to differ from normal ones in that their response to antigen stimulation is significantly stronger: increased intracytoplasmic calcium flux and cytosolic protein tyrosine phosphorylation occurs in these cells upon antigen recognition (2). The molecular mechanism that seems to underlie this heightened activation status is the CD3/TCR complex rewiring. In normal T cells the CD3 ζ chain is responsible for transmitting signals from TCR to downstream molecules like ZAP-70 (zeta-associated protein). Expression levels of the CD3 ζ however have been found to be decreased in lupus patients and it is the Fc γ R chain that takes its place instead (*Fig.1*) (4). Instead of coupling with ZAP-70, Fc γ R transmits signals through spleen tyrosine kinase (Syk), resulting in a 100 times increased signaling effect in these cells (5,6). Lower levels of CD3 ζ in lupus T cells appear to be related to the increased expression of an unstable alternatively spliced CD3 ζ isoform (7). ASF/SF2 (alternative splicing factor/splicing factor 2), the enzyme responsible for limiting the production of this alternatively spliced isoform is found to be decreased in lupus patients (8) and could be responsible for the reduction of CD3 ζ levels.

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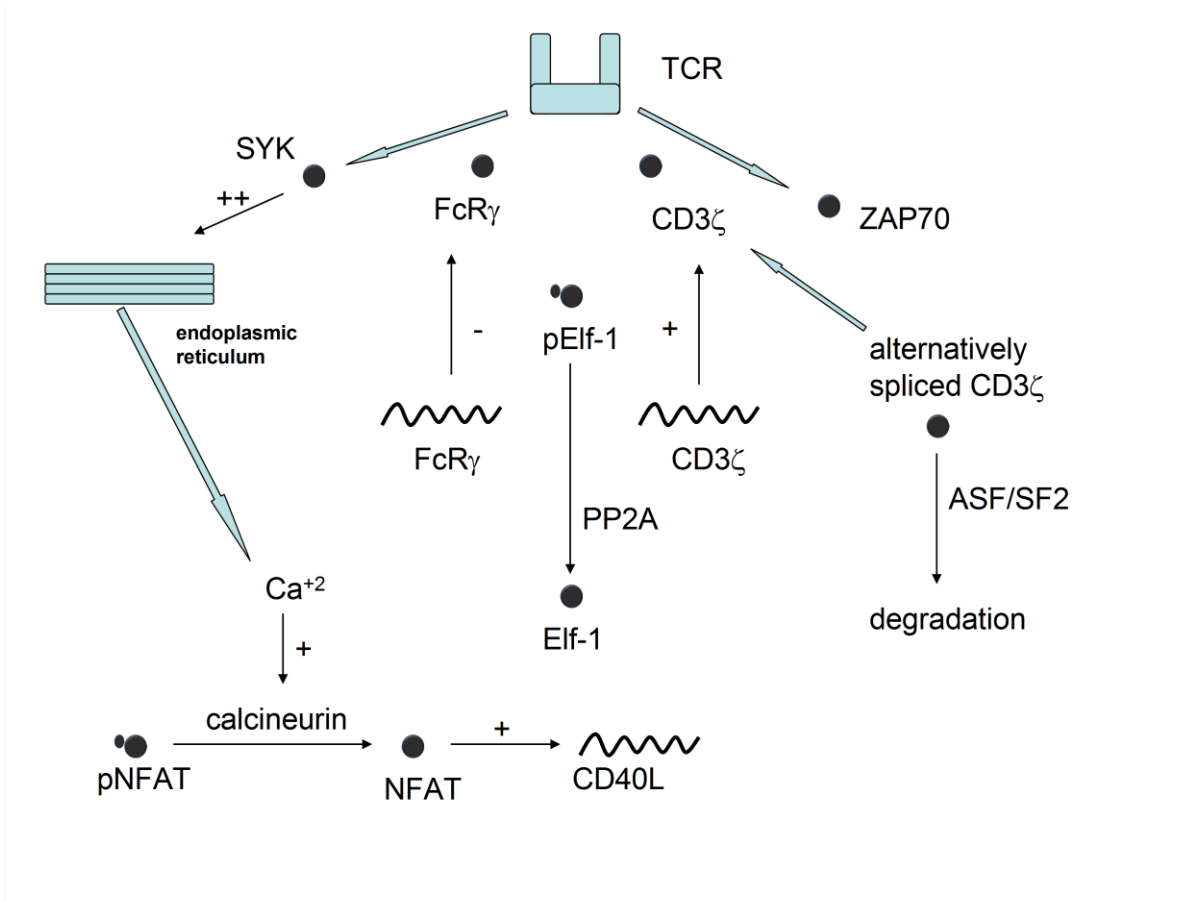


Figure 1. SLE T cell CD3/TCR complex rewiring. TCR signals in SLE T cells travel through Fc γ R and Syk molecules, instead of CD3 ζ and ZAP-70. This results in a 100 times stronger signaling effect, driving increased activation and expression of costimulatory molecules (CD40L) in these cells. Increased expression of PP2A leads to dephosphorylation (and thus inactivation) of Elf-1, the transcription factor responsible for restoring the CD3 ζ / Fc γ R balance in these cells. On the other hand, decreased expression of ASF/SF2 allows for the balance of CD3 ζ molecules to tip towards unstable isoforms and for the total number of CD3 ζ molecules to decrease.

Another explanation for the decreased CD3 ζ levels in SLE T cells could come from the action of the transcription factor Elf-1. Elf-1 binds to the promoters of both CD3 ζ and Fc γ R genes but has opposite effects on each of them. Binding of Elf1 to CD3 ζ promoter enhances its activity whereas binding to Fc γ R promoter represses its activity. The decreased levels of DNA-binding Elf-1 found in SLE T cells may thus provide another explanation for the concurrent decreased CD3 ζ and increased Fc γ R expression (Fig.1) (9). It appears that a serine/threonine phosphatase, PP2A (protein phosphatase 2), is upstream of Elf-1 indirectly affecting the expression of CD3 ζ and Fc γ R. This enzyme can dephosphorylate

Elf-1 resulting in limited expression and binding of Elf-1 to the CD3zeta and Fc γ R promoters (10). In agreement with the above paradigm, lupus T cells express aberrantly increased amounts of both mRNA and protein levels of PP2A and this exhibits heightened enzymatic activity in them (11).

Another reason why T cells in lupus exhibit faster and stronger signaling responses is lipid raft clustering. Lipid rafts are high-cholesterol membrane zones rich in signaling molecules that are found on the surface of T cells. Although these are known to polarize upon cell activation in order to facilitate cell-cell

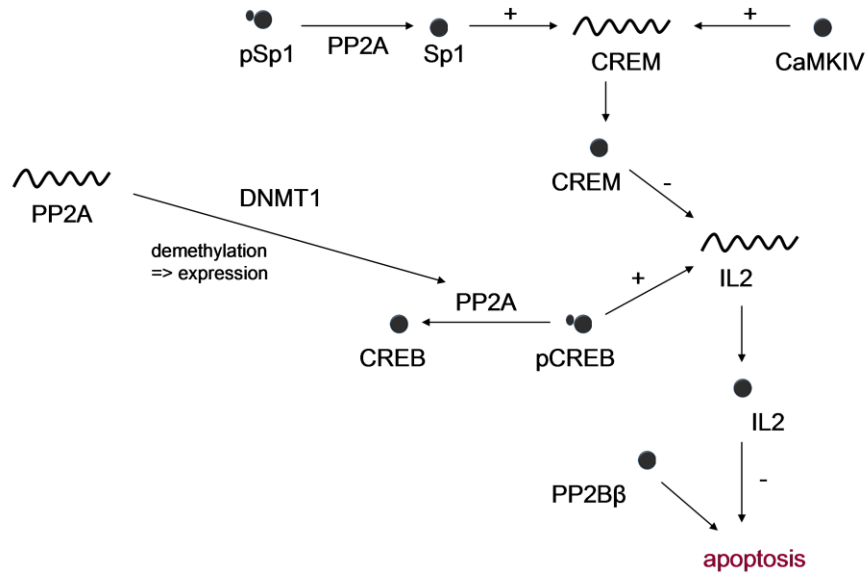


Figure 2. Apoptosis and IL2-related defects. Hypomethylation of PP2A gene allows for increased expression of this enzyme in SLE patients. PP2A is then responsible for both deactivating CREB, a transcription factor that induces IL2 expression, and activating Sp1, a transcription factor that activates CREM (a negative regulator of IL2). CaMKIV also seems to contribute to the induction of CREM expression in these cells. Despite low levels of IL2 in SLE T cells, autoreactive populations escape apoptosis and decreased levels of PP2B β seem to play a role in this.

communication and signaling, they are found to be pre-aggregated in unstimulated SLE T cells (12).

Furthermore, T cells in lupus patients seem to be able to migrate more effectively towards inflamed tissues. CD44, a cell-surface molecule involved in cell adhesion, migration and signaling, is found to be abnormally high in T cells from these patients (13,14). In particular, isoforms CD44v3 and CD44v6 are mostly increased in these patients and correlate with disease activity and the presence of nephritis (15). CD44 is known to signal through ERM (ezrin, radixin and moesin) proteins and T cells with increased levels of phosphorylated ERM have been found in kidney infiltrates of patients with SLE (13). These findings suggest that CD44 could play an important role in promoting T cell access to sites of inflammation in SLE.

Cytokine and intracellular enzyme abnormalities

Overall it seems that lupus T cells possess a stronger activation and migration capacity than normal T cells.

It seems to be reasonable then that T cells in these patients also exhibit higher expression levels of costimulatory molecules, like CD40L. CD40L interaction with its ligand, CD40 is known to induce both B cell antibody production and dendritic cell activation (16). NFAT (nuclear factor of activated T cells), a transcription factor regulated by intracellular calcium levels, seems to be involved in this process. Levels of nuclear NFAT are found to be abnormally increased in activated T cells from SLE patients and these seem to be responsible for CD40L overexpression (*Fig.1*) (17). Although NFAT is also known to be involved in IL2 gene transcription, IL2 production is decreased in these patients. This seems to be due to the fact that activator protein 1 (AP1) is also decreased and AP1 is necessary, along with NFAT, for IL2 to be transcribed (2).

The downregulation of IL2 gene expression in patients suffering from SLE appears to be associated with a number of molecular defects. CREM (cAMP-responsive element modulator) to

pCREB(phosphorylated cAMP response element binding protein) ratio seems to play an important role in this (18). Both pCREB and CREM bind to the IL2 promoter and regulate its expression, however, pCREB induces and CREM represses its transcription (*Fig.2*). As mentioned earlier, SLE patients have higher levels of PP2A and this dephosphorylates and subsequently inactivates pCREB (11). These abnormalities cooperatively lead to the decreased expression of IL2 that is seen in these patients.

Another enzyme that affects CREM/CREB expression balance by altering their transcriptional and translational regulation is Ca²⁺/calmodulin-dependent kinase IV (CaMKIV). CaMKIV is found to be increased in the nucleus of SLE T cells (19). When normal T cells are treated with SLE serum these cells produce increased amounts of CREM protein able to bind to the IL-2 promoter and this process is abolished when a dominant inactive form of CaMKIV is expressed in them (*Fig.2*). Thus, it seems possible that anti-TCR/CD3 antibodies that are present in SLE sera could account for the increased production of CaMKIV expression in lupus T cells. This notion is confirmed in lupus mouse models, where CaMKIV inhibition results in significant suppression of nephritis and skin disease, decreased expression of the costimulatory molecules CD86 and CD80 on B cells and suppression of IFN γ and TNF α production. Similarly, silencing CAMKIV in human SLE T cells results in suppression of IFN γ production (20).

Apart from directly affecting pCREB levels, high expression of PP2A protein also contributes to lupus immunopathology from another perspective. Specificity protein-1 (SP-1) is a transcription factor that has been found to bind to CREM promoter and increase its expression. PP2A can dephosphorylate Sp1 at its serine residue 59, allowing it in this way to bind CREM promoter (21). Nuclei from SLE T cells were found to contain lower levels of phosphorylated SP-1 protein and a stronger SP-1 binding to the CREM promoter.

Considering the important role of PP2A protein in SLE T cells, the plausible question that is being raised is what causes overexpression of this enzyme? The answer seems to lie in the promoter region of PP2A gene. Expression of PP2A is controlled epigenetically through the methylation of a CpG within a cAMP

response element (CRE) motif residing in the promoter. This area is significantly less methylated in SLE T cells and methylation levels are correlated inversely with levels of PP2A mRNA in these patients (22,23). Furthermore, DNA methyltransferase 1 (DNMT1), the enzyme that is responsible for the methylation of newly replicated daughter DNA strands during mitosis, is found to be decreased in SLE patients (22). T cells treated with 5-azacitidine, a DNA methyltransferase inhibitor, show increased expression of PP2A mRNA (23).

Although PP2A protein is expressed more abundantly in lupus T cells, its B β regulatory subunit, PP2AB β , seems to be reduced. In the absence of IL-2, PP2AB β is capable of inducing apoptosis in T cells, contributing in this way to the termination of a no-longer-needed immune response. IL-2 deprivation in lupus T cells, however, does not always lead to an increase of PP2AB β levels and this defect is accompanied by resistance to apoptosis (24). Longer survival of autoreactive T cells in SLE patients could thus be related to the defective production of PP2B β in them.

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, it seems that lupus T cells exhibit a unique phenotypic and functional profile that contributes to disease pathogenesis. Based on the high number of T cell molecular abnormalities that are found in lupus patients it seems reasonable to expect that diagnostic/prognostic tests utilizing them could soon be produced. Steps towards this goal have already been taken and results seem to be quite promising (25,26). Even more, it is hoped that novel therapeutic agents which aim at correction these biochemical abnormalities could be produced and clinical trials testing such molecules are already under way (27).

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- WHBA Societies NewsHellenic Bioscientific Association
in the USA**"Moving from basic to translational research via novel technologies"**

**October 15-16, 2011 - Columbia University
Amsterdam Avenue & 116th st, New York, NY 10027
Schermmerhorn Hall, Room 501**

Saturday, Oct 15**Meeting Registration (2:00 pm)****Plenary session (5:00 pm)****Opening session (3:00 pm)**

Thomas Thomou, PhD, President of the HBA-USA
Thomas Nikolakakis: Board member of the Columbia University Hellenic Association
Aghie Balta: Consul General of Greece in New York
Koula Sophianou, Consul General of Cyprus in New York

Nomination of HBA-USA Honorary Members

Dr. Stavros Vougiouklakis
Mrs. Niki Sideris

Presentation of the Award for Outstanding Contribution in Biosciences Education

Professor Vassilis I. Zannis,
Boston University & University of Crete

Presentation of the award recipient by *Dr. Konstantinos Drosatos*,
Coordinator of the Organizing Committee
Columbia University & World Hellenic Biomedical Association

4:00 – 5:00**Presentation of the 2nd "Aristoteles Award" for outstanding achievements in Biosciences**

Professor Charalambos Gavras, Boston University

Presentation of the award recipient by *Professor Litsa Kranias*,
University of Cincinnati

**The "Aristoteles Award" Keynote Lecture
by Prof. Charalambos Gavras**

"The Renin-Angiotensin system, past and present"

5:00 – 5:30**Iannis Aifantis, Ph.D**

Associate Professor, New York University & Howard Hughes Medical Institute, New York, NY

"Epigenetic regulation of stem cell differentiation and transformation" (*Published in Cancer Cell*)

5:30 - 6:00**Charalampos Kalodimos, Ph.D**

Associate Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Rutgers University, NJ

"Dynamic activation of an allosteric regulatory protein"
(*Published in Nature*)

6:00 - 6:30**Poulikos Poulikakos, Ph.D**

Research Associate, Memorial Sloan Kettering, New York, NY

"RAF inhibitors transactivate RAFdimers and ERK signalling in cells with wild-type BRAF" (*Published in Nature*)

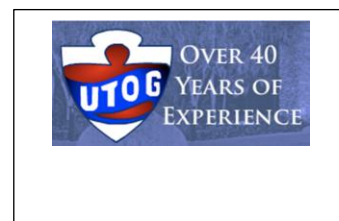
6:30 – 7:00**Nick Vlahakis, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

"Thrombosis in the ICU: Mechanisms and prophylaxis"

8:00 – 10:00 pm**Reception**

**Family of
Christos S.
Polentas**



Sunday, Oct 16

Scientific Session 1: Novel technologies and applications

Coordinators: *Emma Filippidi (New York University),
Ioannis Zervantonakis (MIT)*

Remarks by *Ambassador Dimitris Caramitsos-Tziras,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations*

9:45 – 10:15

The Christos S. Polentas Distinguished Lecture

Nikos Kyrpides, Ph.D

Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute, Walnut Creek, CA
Head of the Genome Biology Program
“The future of Microbial Genomics”

10:15 – 10:35

Nikos Chronis, Ph.D

Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

“Enabling Translational Research through Bio-MicroElectroMechanical Systems (BioMEMS)”

10:35 – 10:55

Maria P. Limberis, Ph.D

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA
Research Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

“Virus vector-mediated antibody expression in vivo to prevent pandemic flu”

Scientific Session 2: Metabolism & Cardiovascular biology

Coordinators: *Iordanes Karagiannides (UCLA),
Konstantinos Drosatos (Columbia University)*

11:15 – 11:45

The Atlantic Bank of New York Distinguished Lecture

Litsa Kranias, Ph.D

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH
Distinguished University Professor
Director, Cardiovascular Biology
“Calcium circuits in Heart Failure”

11:45 – 12:10

George Tellides, MD, Ph.D

Yale University, School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Professor of Surgery, Cardiothoracic and Investigative Medicine
Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery
“Immune-Mediated Vascular Remodeling”

Chris J. Vlahos, Ph.D

Lilly Research Laboratories, Indianapolis, IN
Manager, Global External R&D
“Cardiovascular Drug Development: Challenges and Promises”

12:35 – 12:55

Anastasios Lymperopoulos, Ph.D

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
“A new therapeutic target in heart failure: adrenal β -arrestin-1 and aldosterone regulation”

Lunch Break

Scientific Session 3: Cancer & Immunology

Coordinator: *Athanasios Vassilopoulos (Vanderbilt University)*

Remarks by *Mr. Dimitrios Kafchitsas,
President & CEO of the Pangregorian Enterprizes of Metro NY & LI*

2:00 – 2:30

The Pangregorian Enterprizes of Metro NY & LI Distinguished Lecture

John M. Kyriakis, Ph.D.

Professor of Medicine - Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
“Novel functions for the Mst2 tumor suppressor”

2:30 – 2:55

Constantine A. Stratakis, MD, DSc
Director & Chief, Section on Endocrinology & Genetics DEB & Heritable Disorders Branch, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, Bethesda, MD
“cAMP signaling defects and tumors”

2:55 – 3:20

Gabriela Chiosis, Ph.D
Principal Investigator, Molecular Pharmacology and Chemistry
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York NY
“The Hsp90 inhibitor PU-H71: from bench to bedside”

3:20 – 3:40

Dimitrios Iliopoulos, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School & Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
“Identification of selective inhibitors of colon cancer stem cells through high throughput screening”

Session 4: Collaborations in Life Sciences Education and Research in the United States & Greece

Coordinator: *Thomas Thomou (Harvard Medical School)*

4:00 - 4:15

**Thomas Thomou, Ph.D. – President of the HBA-USA
Science Teaching Exchange Program –
HBA-USA & Univ. of Thessaloniki & Univ. of Ioannina**

4:15 – 4:30

Vassilis Zannis, Ph.D.

Professor & Director of the Division of Molecular Genetics, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
Boston University School of Medicine-University of Crete exchange program

4:30 – 4:45

John Evans, D.Sc

Professor, Environmental Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA
Harvard University & University of Cyprus Institute Program

4:45 - 5:00

Leon Stavrou

Executive Director, The Next Generation Initiative, Washington, DC
Identifying the leaders of the next generation

5:00 – 6:00

Panel discussion

Panelist: **Stelios Papadopoulos, Ph.D.**

BG-Medicine & Fondation Sante - Non-profit organization aiming to foster multidisciplinary collaborative and educational efforts

Closing remarks

Meeting summary and conclusions

Athanasios Vassilopoulos, Ph.D – Vice president of the HBA-USA
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Attendees' departure

- WHBA Societies News**Hellenic Medical Society of New York****Announcements**

(1) The Hellenic Medical Society of New York invites your **nominations for The Maria Kalopothakes, M.D. - Distinguished Female Physician of the Year Award 2012.**

Please direct your responses to the Administrator of the Society.

(2) **HMS NY Scholarships and Awards:** Dr. Theo Diktaban and Dr. Michael Michelis reviewing applications for 2011 Specialty Area Scholarships and Awards . Please refer deserving students for consideration. To review the various awards and qualifications visit our website: <http://www.hmsny.org/scholarship.html>

Upcoming Events

(1) Scientific Symposium 2011: Fellowship Awards, Scholarship Awards and Student Grants,

Thursday December 1, 2011

(2) The Hellenic Medical Society of New York DIAMOND JUBILLE 75th Anniversary Celebration, Friday December 2, 2011

Past Events

(1) Spring General Assembly Meeting on June 6th 2011, held at Roosevelt Hospital Trustees Board Room

(2) Dinner Symposium: Investing in Manhattan Real Estate, held at Scalleta Restaurant on June 7th 2011

(3) Summer BBQ on June 23rd 2011, Hosted by HSBC Bank and Brown Harris Stevens. The event featured a presentation by Global Health Associates on the topic of "Negotiation of Medical Contracts"

(4) Second Annual Papanicolaou Tutorial on Diagnostic Cytopathology, July 28-29th, New York. The symposium was presented by the Weill Cornell Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Course Director: Rana S. Hoda, M.D. Over 70 cytopathologists attended the course.



Weill Cornell Medical College

2nd Annual
**Papanicolaou Tutorial on
Diagnostic Cytopathology**

July 28-29, 2011
Thursday & Friday
in NYC

PRESENTED BY THE
WCMC DEPARTMENT
OF PATHOLOGY AND
LABORATORY MEDICINE

Course Director
Rana S. Hoda, MD

Credit
This activity has been
approved for AMA PRA
Category 1 Credit(s)[™]
and SAM credits

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GEORGE NICHOLAS
PAPANICOLAOU
M.D., Ph.D.
BORN IN GREECE, 1883
DIED IN U.S.A. 1962
MEMBER OF AMERICAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
HONORARY FELLOW OF CANCER
RESEARCH SOCIETY
"THE PEP TEST"



- **WHBA Societies News****Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia****Prior/Ongoing Events and Programs:**

1) Spring Dinner meeting of the Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia May 17th, 2011 at Positano Coast, Philadelphia. Over 25 members of the HMS participated in the informative discussion of the events of the HMS. Topics included the Membership drive and committee, Medical student/allied health student scholarship program, proposed medical student/resident exchange program with Greece and Board of Advisors of the HMS.

2) Educational Event of the Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia May 25th 2011 630pm at Adelphia Restaurant, Deptford, New Jersey. Through our relationship with the American Hellenic Lawyers Association, HMS Philadelphia arranged an educational lecture entitled, "How to Avoid Litigation for the Medical Professional" presented by Mr. Howard Cohen of Parker McCay. Over 30 attended the lecture and many great questions and answers discussed.

3) Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia Co-Sponsored Spring Social June 15th 2011 at Riverwinds Restaurant, West Deptford, NJ. Co-sponsored by Hellenic University Club, Hellenic Medical Society, American Hellenic Lawyers Association and Greek American Chamber of Commerce, spring social event followed by an educational lecture by legal expert regarding the impact of Social media on society was well attended. Over 50 members from all the Philadelphia Professional Societies networked and benefited from the excellent discussion.

4) Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia first Annual Golf Outing and family picnic/pool party occurred on June 26th 2011 at Ramblewood Golf Club, Mount Laurel, New Jersey. Co-sponsored by Cretan Society of Greater Philadelphia, the beautiful day of golf and lounging by the pool. Many members participated in this great social event while improving their golf game. With all the positive feedback, a yearly event is being planned.

5) Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia Student scholarship program: The HMS supports a medical student (MD, DO, DMD, DDS) and allied health student scholarship (RN, PharmD, RT, PT) each year and awarded our first scholarship to Ms. Natalie Saffos of Drexel nursing. As of May 1, applications are being sent to local (NJ, PA, DE) colleges and universities with a submission deadline of Oct 15th. The Award will be presented at our November Dinner meeting. Please contact our administrator Sophia Pappas to receive an application at HMSPHL@gmail.com or Spappasnj@aol.com.



6) Membership drive of the Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia: Many thanks to all board and committee members as the Society has grown to over 250 members including all aspects of medical and allied health professionals.

State of the Debate Health Care Reform Symposium Organizing committee: NJ Federation president Tassos Efstratiades, North jersey Hellenic health professionals President Christina Antoniou, HMS Philadelphia President Dr. Elias Iliadis, Speaker Dr James Fasules, Rep. Gus Bilirakis, Speaker Dr Vasiliki Saitas, Dr Tony Spanakos of Montclair University and Greek American Chamber of Commerce Chairman Stavros Antonakakis

- **WHBA Societies News**

Dues are now also accepted via the Website, under the membership dues tab. www.hmsphl.com

7) State of the Debate Health Care Reform Symposium Saturday, September 17th, 2011, 9 am at Montclair University, Montclair NJ. Co-sponsored with the Greek American Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Hellenic American Societies of NJ and others. Following the Success of last Fall's Philadelphia conference, experts will discuss the attributes of the health Care reform Law on their fields including Medical, Industry, Legal and Legislative. Keynote Speaker will be Rep. Gus Bilirakis of Florida. Please consider attending this excellent Hellenic Professionals conference.

To focus our efforts, three members have been assigned membership committee chairs for the three states (PA, NJ, DE) making up our region. These members are Dr. Paul Mastoridis (NJ), Dr. Stephanie Morris and Dr Erini Poggio (western Philadelphia) and Dr. John Psaltis (DE). Also, Alexia Tsorikas PharmD has offered to serve as student liaison to the local colleges and universities to increase awareness of the Society and its events. Please contact the Society at HMSPHL@gmail.com with any prospective members or comments.

8) Fall Social and networking event among the Philadelphia professional Societies: Continuing on this successful collaboration, more events are being scheduled among the Greek American Chamber of Commerce, American Hellenic Lawyers Association, Hellenic University Club and Hellenic Medical Society. More details to follow and for more information, please contact the society.

9) Jim Fifis, Lung Cancer Research Fund Gala event, Sept 20th, 2011 at Ponzio's Restaurant, Cherry Hill, NJ. HMS members will be there to support the fund and the Greek Community. On September 24-25th from 10 am to 2 pm, a HMS table at the Ponzios restaurant to discuss Lung cancer and smoking prevention and members are needed to staff this table. All are welcome to participate.

Upcoming Events

- 1) **Go Red for St Thomas AGORA, October 6-9th, 2011, St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherry Hill NJ.** HMS Philadelphia to participate in Cardiovascular health event during St Thomas AGORA, Cherry Hill NJ. As part of the St Thomas Go Red campaign, HMS members are needed to participate in BP screening and Q/A with patrons of the AGORA. On Saturday, Cooper University Hospital community outreach staffs will perform blood sugar and cholesterol measurements. Please contact the HMS if you can participate and more to follow.
- 2) **Community Service Initiative of the Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia:** Various events have been planned in the fall, which offer opportunity to participate in our community outreach. BP screening, Q/A to parishioners and possibly Flu Shots may be available. St Nicholas Atlantic City, October 23rd St George, Trenton, TBAST George Cathedral, Philadelphia, TBA
Please contact Sophia Pappas at spappasnj@aol.com for more details.



Jim Fifis Lung Cancer fund: HMS member Alexia Tsikouras, PharmD, Elias Iliadis MD and Stephanie Morris MD at the information session

- WHBA Societies News

Hellenic Medical Association of Quebec, Canada

Past events

May 31st, 2011

“Atrial Fibrillation: New Approaches to Prevention of Thrombo-embolic Complications”

George Honos, MD - Head of Cardiology, CHUM

Sponsored by: Canadian Cardiovascular Society

Future events

Tuesday, September 27th, 2011 at 6:30pm

Otolaryngology – "Pot-pourri" for the general practitioner

Apostolos Christopoulos MD, MSc, FRCSC

Professeur Adjoint de Clinique

ORL - Chirurgie Oncologique Cervico-faciale, CHUM, Université de Montréal

MYTHOS

5318 Avenue du Parc, Montreal, QC H2V 4G7, (514) 270-0235

Sponsored by: Merck

Upcoming CME conferences

October 19: PROBIOTICS, November 29th: HPV Vaccines

