

Hellenic Bioscientific Association  
in the USA

# Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA

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## Newsletter

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## Μήνυμα του Υφυπουργού Εθνικής Παιδείας και Θρησκευμάτων, αρμοδίου για θέματα Ανωτάτης Εκπαίδευσης, κ. Σπύρου Ταλιαδούρου



Αξιότιμο κ.  
**Κωνσταντίνο Γ. Δροσάτο**  
Πρόεδρο Συλλόγου Ελλήνων  
Βιοεπιστημόνων ΗΠΑ

Η πρόσκληση συνεργασίας του Υπουργείου Εθνικής Παιδείας και Θρησκευμάτων (ΥΠΕΠΘ) και του Συλλόγου Ελλήνων Βιοεπιστημόνων ΗΠΑ, που μου απευθύνετε, μέσω της επιστολής σας, τιμά την ηγεσία του ΥΠΕΠΘ καθώς αυτή υποβάλλεται από μια υψηλού επιπέδου ομάδα επιστημόνων με εξαιρετική συνεισφορά στην Επιστήμη, στο πεδίο των Επιστημών Ζωής. Το γεγονός δε, της συμμετοχής σε αυτήν, Ελληνικής καταγωγής καθηγητών, μας καθιστά ιδιαίτερα περήφανους γιατί συμβάλλει στην ενδυνάμωση της ελληνικής εμβέλειας στο χώρο των επιστημών και του πολιτισμού.

Στη σύγχρονη εποχή της παγκοσμιοποίησης και της πολυπολιτισμικότητας, στη σύγχρονη Κοινωνία της Γνώσης και της Πληροφορίας, η δημιουργία μιας οικονομίας βασισμένης στην κοινωνία της γνώσης, αποτελεί εθνική προτεραιότητα. Μπροστά σε

αυτά τα δεδομένα έχουμε θέσει ως βασικό στόχο της εκπαιδευτικής μας πολιτικής, την ποιοτική αναβάθμιση της τριτοβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης. Στόχος μας να παρέχουμε υψηλού επιπέδου μόρφωση και δυνατότητες διαρκούς εξοικείωσης, με το εξελισσόμενο περιβάλλον γνώσεων και τεχνολογιών. Να δημιουργήσουμε ένα καλύτερο και σύγχρονο ακαδημαϊκό περιβάλλον για τους διδάσκοντες, τους ερευνητές και τους φοιτητές. Να βελτιώσουμε την ανταγωνιστικότητα των Ανωτάτων Εκπαιδευτικών Ιδρυμάτων. Θεσπίσαμε ένα σύγχρονο θεσμικό πλαίσιο λειτουργίας αυτών, εναρμονισμένο με τα αντίστοιχα ευρωπαϊκά, ώστε τα Ελληνικά ΑΕΙ να μπορούν να διαδραματίζουν ισότιμο ρόλο στο διαμορφούμενο ενιαίο Ευρωπαϊκό και Διεθνή χώρο ανώτατης εκπαίδευσης. Προς αυτή την κατεύθυνση, ενισχύσαμε την αυτοδιοίκηση των ΑΕΙ, καθώς και την αποτελεσματική και διαφανή διαχείριση των δημοσίων χρηματοδοτήσεων μέσα από 4ετείς αναπτυξιακούς προγραμματισμούς. Ο νόμος για την αξιολόγηση ενισχύει σημαντικά την ποιότητα της παρεχόμενης εκπαίδευσης. Θέσαμε με πρόσφατο νόμο το πλαίσιο για την ανάπτυξη της έρευνας και της τεχνολογίας στα ΑΕΙ.

Η ίδρυση δε, του Διεθνούς Πανεπιστημίου της Ελλάδος, από την πολιτεία

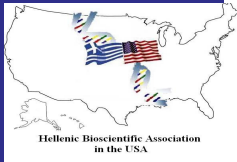
σηματοδότησε την πολιτική βούληση για ενίσχυση της εξωστρέφειας, της ανταγωνιστικότητας και της δημιουργικής συνεργασίας στο χώρο της Ανώτατης Εκπαίδευσης. Το άνοιγμα αυτό, της ελληνικής ανώτατης εκπαίδευσης, εκτός συνόρων, με ένα αυτοτελές και αυτόνομο δημόσιο πανεπιστήμιο, υπό την έννοια του Άρθρου 16, σηματοδοτεί από τη μια τη διάσταση παγκοσμιοποίησης του πνευματικού πολιτισμού, και από την άλλη ενισχύει το διάλογο και την αμοιβαία εμπιστοσύνη μεταξύ πανεπιστημιακών ιδρυμάτων. Ενισχύσαμε την εξωστρέφεια των ΑΕΙ με την ενθάρρυνση υλοποίησης και την καθιέρωση κοινών μεταπτυχιακών, πανεπιστημίων της ημεδαπής με διεθνώς αναγνωρισμένα ΑΕΙ της αλλοδαπής.

Με τα μέτρα αυτά, δεσμευόμαστε στην υποστήριξη πολιτικών, που προάγουν τη μάθηση και τον πολιτισμό, ανοίγουν διόδους επικοινωνίας και ευνοούν την ανταλλαγή πνευματικών εμπειριών. Και αυτό γιατί δεν πρέπει να ξεχνάμε ότι η γνώση σήμερα αποτελεί γεφύρι επικοινωνίας. Αυτή μας προκαλεί και αυτή μας ενώνει όλους εμάς, εδώ σήμερα.

Με εκτίμηση  
Σπύρος Ταλιαδούρος  
Υφυπουργός

## TOP 10 PUBLICATIONS LIST

The best 10 original papers published during the quarter of Nov '08 - Jan '09 by Greek/Greek-American researchers, that have registered with the HBA-USA, have been posted on the association's website ([www.hba-usa.org](http://www.hba-usa.org)). This is an effort aiming to highlight the scientific achievements of the Greek researchers who are members of the Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA.

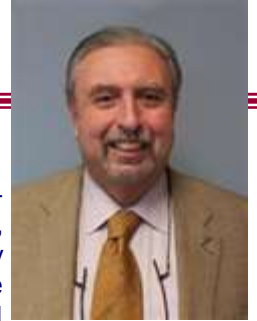


Congratulations  
to all!

Refer to the next page to read an interesting interview with Dr Manolagas, about the **No 1 publication** "Giant osteoclast formation and long-term oral bisphosphonate therapy"

1. Weinstein RS, Roberson PK, **Manolagas SC**. Giant osteoclast formation and long-term oral bisphosphonate therapy. *N Engl J Med*. 2009 Jan 1;360(1):53-62.
2. Ray PS, Jia J, Yao P, Majumder M, **Hatzoglou M**, Fox PL. A stress-responsive RNA switch regulates VEGFA expression. *Nature*. 2008 Dec 21. [Epub ahead of print]
3. Real PJ, Tosello V, Palomero T, Castillo M, Hernando E, de Stanchina E, Sulis ML, Barnes K, Sawai C, Homminga I, Meijerink J, **Aifantis I**, Basso G, Cordon-Cardo C, Ai W, Ferrando A. Gamma-secretase inhibitors reverse glucocorticoid resistance in T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. *Nat Med*. 2009 Jan;15(1):50-8.
4. Choi EY, Chavakis E, Czabanka MA, Langer HF, Fraemohs L, Economopoulou M, Kundu RK, Orlandi A, Zheng YY, Prieto DA, Ballantyne CM, Constant SL, Aird WC, **Papayannopoulou T**, Gahmberg CG, Udey MC, Vajkoczy P, Quertermous T, Dimmeler S, Weber C, Chavakis T. eI-1, an endogenous leukocyte-endothelial adhesion inhibitor, limits inflammatory cell recruitment. *Science*. 2008 Nov 14;322(5904):1101-4.
5. Diwan A, Matkovich SJ, Yuan Q, Zhao W, Yatani A, Brown JH, Molkentin JD, **Kranias EG**, Dorn GW 2nd. Endoplasmic reticulum-mitochondria crosstalk in NIX-mediated murine cell death. *J Clin Invest*. 2009 Jan;119(1):203-12.
6. Tang PC, Qin L, Zielonka J, Zhou J, Matte-Martone C, Bergaya S, van Rooijen N, Shlomchik WD, Min W, Sessa WC, Pober JS, **Tellides G**. MyD88-dependent, superoxide-initiated inflammation is necessary for flow-mediated inward remodeling of conduit arteries. *J Exp Med*. 2008 Dec 22;205(13):3159-71.
7. Rao DA, Eid RE, Qin L, Yi T, Kirkiles-Smith NC, **Tellides G**, Pober JS. Interleukin (IL)-1 promotes allogeneic T cell intimal infiltration and IL-17 production in a model of human artery rejection. *J Exp Med*. 2008 Dec 22;205(13):3145-58.
8. Foon KA, Boyiadzis M, Land SR, Marks S, **Raptis A**, Pietragallo L, Meisner D, Laman A, Sulecki M, Butchko A, Schaefer P, Lenzer D, Tarhini A. Chemotherapy With Low-Dose Fludarabine and Cyclophosphamide and High Dose Rituximab in Previously Untreated Patients With Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. *J Clin Oncol*. 2008 Dec 15.
9. Rengo G, **Lymperopoulos A**, Zincarelli C, Donniacuo M, Soltys S, Rabinowitz JE, Koch WJ. Myocardial adeno-associated virus serotype 6-betaARKct gene therapy improves cardiac function and normalizes the neurohormonal axis in chronic heart failure. *Circulation*. 2009 Jan 6;119(1):89-98.
10. Chen PL, **Avramopoulos D**, Lasseter VK, McGrath JA, Fallin MD, Liang KY, Nestadt G, Feng N, Steel G, Cutting AS, Wolyniec P, Pulver AE, Valle D. Fine mapping on chromosome 10q22-q23 implicates Neuregulin 3 in schizophrenia. *Am J Hum Genet*. 2009 Jan;84(1):21-34.

## Interview with Stavros Manolagas, M.D., Ph.D.



*Q: Dr Manolagas, could you please give us an introduction of your academic profile?*

A: I am an M.D., Ph.D. and the Thomas E. Andreoli, M.D., MACP, Clinical Scholar Chair in Internal Medicine, Professor of Medicine, Director of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Director of the Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Diseases Center, Chief of the Endocrinology Section of the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). I received my M.D. from the University of Athens, Greece in 1969 and my Ph.D. from the University of Manchester, U.K. in 1979. Prior to my present appointment (1993), I served in the faculty at the University of California at San Diego for nine years and Indiana University for six years. I am a member of the AAP, the recipient of the inaugural Founders Award of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research for fundamental contributions to bone and mineral basic research, and have a Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Athens, Greece.

*Q: Can you brief us on the major findings that are described in your recent papers in The New England Journal of Medicine?*

A: During the last 20 years, bisphosphonates have become the treatment of choice for osteoporosis, Paget's disease, bone metastases, and the hypercalcemia of malignancy-diseases characterized by abnormal resorption of bone. Heretofore, the prevailing dogma had been that bisphosphonates decrease bone resorption by decreasing the number of osteoclasts (the specialized multi-nucleated cells that remove bone) as a result of their ability to promote osteoclast apoptosis. In a sharp departure from the conventional thinking, the study by Weinstein et al. shows that bisphosphonates increase, rather than decrease, the number of osteoclasts, and also give rise to giant osteoclasts (with many more nuclei than normal) which exhibit signs of protracted apoptosis. These abnormal cells may be present in bone as long as one year following the discontinuation of treatment with the drugs.

*Q: 30-50% of women and 15-30% of men will suffer a fracture related to osteoporosis in their lifetime, according to the International Osteoporosis Foundation. Do you think your results will lead to new scientific discoveries for this disease?*

A: We hope that these discoveries will provide a better understanding for the mechanism of action of the drugs and prevent misdiagnoses. And, perhaps, they would generate interest for understanding the process of polycation formation under physiologic and pathologic diseases.

*Q: Your findings refer to osteoporosis. Do you think these results may also apply to other bone diseases?*

A: Yes. As I indicated above, these drugs have been used for several other diseases.

*Q: Do you think the results of your study support the idea of a prospective diagnostic test for the efficacy of oral bisphosphonate therapy?*

A: I have no way of knowing whether our findings are relevant to the efficacy of the treatment, as the response of the individual patients in terms of bone mineral density in the original study was not available to us.

*Q: Since you are one of the Advisory Board members of our association, what would you advise our members who are at their beginning of their career so that they can be successful?*

A: I do not believe that there is a precise recipe or even a consensus of what success is, but I do think that Talent, a good Team, and wise Time management (what I call the three T's) are important prerequisites for a good career in science and professional fulfillment.

*Thank you very much*

## EVENT IN CHICAGO

HBA-USA organized a social event on February 7th 2009 in Chicago to celebrate its 4th anniversary since its establishment in 2005.

The event was hosted by the Hellenic American Student Union (HASU) of the Northwestern University and was held in the Norris Student Center of Northwestern University Campus, in Evanston, IL.

The event was a casual get-together with the main purpose of bringing closer the bioscientific community in the area for networking and collaborative purposes.

The event was put together with the joining efforts of the two councilors of HBA-USA, Dionysis Goussetis and Evangelos Ntrivalas.



Konstantinos Drosatos is cutting the Vasilopita

*Special thanks to the Hellenic American Student Union of Northwestern University, and especially to its President Ms. Katerina Alexopoulos, for providing the room*



**From left to right:** Elias Gounaris, Kostas Melachrinou, Dionysis Goussetis, Daniel & Joanne Battle, Kostas Drosatos, Natassa Kalea, Evangelos Ntrivalas, Eliza Vakana, Andrea Antoniou, Chloe Antoniou



**From left to right:** Konstantinos Drosatos, Katerina Alexopoulos (President of HASU), Evangelos Ntrivalas



**From left to right:** Vasilis Karavas, Daniel Battle (the winner of the lucky coin), Natassa Kalea, Joanne Battle

## The HBA-USA welcomes new members

**Alexandros Strikoudis**, The Rockefeller University

**Evangelos Kiskinis**, Harvard Stem Cell Institute

**Vasileios Roukos**, National Cancer Institute, NIH

**Chloe Antoniou**, University of Illinois at Chicago

**Emmanouil Karagiannis**, Harvard/MIT

**Filippos Porichis**, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School

**Georgios Michas**, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

**Eleni Vergadi**, Children's Hospital Boston

**Anastasia Nikolopoulou**, Weil Cornell Medical College



- **Research** position (Demokritos Research Institute, Greece)
- **Board Certified or Board eligible Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist**, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
- **Post-doctoral & PhD student** position in Molecular Infectiology (University of Cologne, Germany)
- **PhD student** position in Molecular Immunology (University of Cologne, Germany)
- **Post-doctoral** position in inflammation and auto-immunity (National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD)
- **Instructor** position in gene expression regulation (Demokritos Research Institute, Greece)
- **Post-doctoral** position in Rehabilitation Robotics (MIT, Cambridge, MA)
- **Post-doctoral** position in molecular mechanisms of lung injury and repair (Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA)
- **Associate Professor** positions in Genetics - Vertebrate Genomics (University of Crete, Greece)
- **Research Faculty** position in Computational and Systems Biology (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY)
- **Physician-Scientist/Basic Scientist** position in host defense, inflammation and lung disease (Pen State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA)
- **Post-doctoral** position in the role of neuropeptides in fat tissue-mediated responses (UC Los Angeles, CA)
- **Senior post-doctoral** fellowships (Fondation Sante)

*Visit our website to find information about these positions*



### ANNOUNCEMENT

The president of HBA-USA gave an interview to the National Herald, New York, about the aims and activities of the association.

*Visit our website to read the interview*

### **DUES FOR 2009**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2009**

( visit our website for details on payment options )

**IN ORDER TO MAKE THE ASSOCIATION STRONGER WE NEED ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM OUR MEMBERS**



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**Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA**

P.O. Box 231134

Boston, MA 02123-9998

E-mail: [administrator@hba-usa.org](mailto:administrator@hba-usa.org)