

Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA

Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Konstantinos Drosatos

President

Thomas Thomou

Vice President

Magdalini Vasiadi

General Secretary

Dimitrios Iliopoulos

Treasurer

Iordanes Karagiannidis

Appointed Secretary

Evangelos Ntrivalas

Dionysios Goussetis

Councilors

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meet the Board members	2-4
Social Events	4
Local representative in PA	4
Local representatives in NY	5
Publications	5
Available positions	6
Up-coming events	6

Establishment of the Association

The Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA was established in 2005 with an aim to facilitate the networking and scientific interaction among the Greek bioscientists in the USA as well as the USA based bioscientists and those that conduct bioscientific research in Greece.

The major aims of this effort are:

1. Strong scientific interaction among the Greek bioscientists in the USA.
2. The organization of an annual scientific meeting in which scientists from USA and Greece will exchange scientific information.
3. The establishment of an exchange program for exceptional undergraduate and graduate students of Greek Universities, in the context of cooperation between American and Greek Universities.
4. Direct communication and interaction with the major scientific societies in USA and Greece.
5. Improved communication channel among bioscientists on new scientific developments.



6. Direct information about positions which are available in USA and Greece.

THANK YOU!

We would like to express our gratitude to those members who have participated in the on-line survey. We would like to ensure you that your comments and suggestions are taken into consideration.

World Hellenic Biomedical Association

Meeting in Cyprus

September 27 - 29, 2008

Since 2006 the HBA-USA is being represented in the executive committee of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association. This is a global network located in the UK and presided over by Prof Gabriel Panayi (King's College London, Professor). In coordination with the WHBA we are working towards the preparation of an International Biomedical conference that will be held under the auspices of the Cypriot Government. Our society will organize a session about Metabolic Syndrome. More details will be released upon finalization of the plans regarding the location and funding opportunities.



Konstantinos Drosatos, Ph.D.

Konstantinos Drosatos was born in Athens, Greece in 1975. He was admitted in the School of Biology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 1995 and he graduated in 2000. Afterwards, he entered the Interdepartmental Graduate Program of Molecular Biology & Biomedicine, organized by the School of Medicine and School of Biology of the University of Crete. In 2002 he received his MSc degree and continued his research for his

PhD in a collaborative program between the University of Crete Medical School and the School of Medicine of Boston University as research scholar. His research focused on cardiovascular disease and more specifically in the transcriptional regulation of apolipoprotein E, a structure-function study for apolipoprotein E and post-transcriptional regulation of genes that are implicated in hepatic steatosis. His re-

search resulted in the publication of 4 original papers (2 already published and 2 under revision) and one review article. After his graduation in 2007 he was offered a post-doctoral position in the Medical School of Columbia University where he conducts research on transcriptional regulation of heart failure and mechanisms that mediate insulin resistance and apoptosis in the heart.

*To promote
interaction
among the
Greek
bioscientists
in the USA*

Thomas Thomou

Thomas was born in Munich, Germany in 1977. He received his BS from the University of Crete, Greece in 2000. He was admitted in the graduate program of Molecular Biology and Biomedicine at the University of Crete, where he received his MSc in 2002. He moved to Boston, MA in 2003 and is currently finishing his PhD in a collaborative program between Boston University School of Medicine in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the Mayo Clinic. The main target of his research is the study of early epigenetic events that occur in visceral fat cell progenitors that account for insulin resistance and the hereditary onset of obesity and diabetes. Furthermore, he is also interested in the effect of several developmental factors in the processes of fat tissue development and differentiation.



Magdalini Vasiadi



Magdalini Vasiadi, biologist, graduated from the University of Patras at 2005 and is PhD candidate at the School of Medicine of University of Athens. She is collaborating with the Allergy Unit of Attikon Hospital and since 2006 she is a research fellow at Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, at the School of Medicine at Tufts University. Her research interests focus on the secretory mechanism and pathophysiological actions of mast cells and their role in mediating the effect of stress to various diseases, like psoriasis, atopic dermatitis and chronic urticaria.

Dimitrios Iliopoulos was born in 1978 in Larissa. He was admitted in the School of Biology of Aristotle University in Thessaloniki in 1997 and graduated at the top of his class in 2001. His undergraduate research work was focused on the role of APC tumor suppressor gene in colorectal carcinogenesis. In 2002 he was accepted in the Human Cancer Genetics Ph.D program in Kimmel Cancer Center in Philadelphia. He completed his Ph.D studies in the record time of 3 years and graduated at the top of his class. In 2005 he received the best young investigator award in breast cancer research from the Department of Defense of the

United States. His research was focused on epigenetic and microRNA regulatory mechanisms of tumor suppressor gene expression and identification of drug-resistance signaling pathways in breast cancer. In 2006 he performed his military service in the Greek Air Force. The same year he received the best cancer researcher award from the Greek Oncology Association. Currently, Dimitrios is a researcher in the Department of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology in the School of Medicine of

Harvard University in Boston. His research is focused on microRNA gene networks in processes such as cancer, obesity and inflammation. He has published 28 original articles in top tier journals such as Cancer Cell, PNAS, Oncogene and Cancer Research and 3 review articles. He is a member of several scientific societies including American Association for Cancer Research, American Epigenetics Society and American Association of the Advancement of Science.



Iordanes Karagiannidis, Ph.D.



Dr. Iordanis Karagiannidis received his Bachelor's degree in Biology at Plymouth State University and his Master's degree in Genetics at University of New Hampshire. He went on to study in the department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine. During his Graduate work he researched the intrinsic changes in fat cell differentiation with aging and accomplished to demonstrate changes in the expression of numerous factors involved in adipocyte differentiation with increasing age in the field of fat tissue physiology. The main target of his research is to study the extent of abdominal fat tissue involvement in the generation of inflammation during IBD. In this research, he found that fat cells respond to proinflammatory stimuli (such as the neuropeptide substance P), shown to be present during IBD, and in turn are able to produce inflammatory cytokines themselves. Such cytokines have also been shown to be involved in IBD pathophysiology. He hopes to ultimately achieve additional results through his research and demonstrate whether fat cells actively participate in the events taking place in the colonic lumen during IBD.

Evangelos Ntrivalas, M.D., Ph.D.

Evangelos Ntrivalas received his M.D. degree in 1993 from Aristotle University Medical School, Thessaloniki, Greece. He did a fellowship in Reproductive Medicine at Finch University of Health Sciences in N. Chicago, IL from 1999 to 2000. He received his Ph.D. degree in Microbiology and Immunology in 2005 from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. He was a Clinical Fellow in the Clinical Immunology Laboratory of RFUMS from 2005 to 2007 and he has assumed the position of Assistant Director in the Clinical Immunology Laboratory in 2007. His research interests are in the area of reproductive immunology, particularly in recurrent pregnancy losses of immune etiology. His goal is to implement novel diagnostic methods that will help physicians identify the immune etiology of pregnancy loss with the aim of early intervention. Dr. Ntrivalas has been invited as a speaker in a number of national and international meetings and he has an extended list of publications.



Dionysios Goussetis, Ph.D.



Dennis Goussetis received his Bachelor of Sciences in Biochemistry in June 2000 from the University of Illinois at Chicago. During his undergraduate education, he was first exposed to biomedical research by working in an immunology laboratory isolating major basic protein (MBP) from eosinophils and basophils in hematopoietic cells. After completing his undergraduate work, he was accepted as a doctoral candidate in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago. In June 2007, he received his Ph.D. from Loyola University Chicago after com-

pleting research studies which focused on the cardioprotective properties of heat shock proteins under oxidative stress induced states in cardiomyocytes. Currently, he is working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University. Dr. Goussetis' research interests focus on cytokine-signaling in normal and malignant hematopoietic cells, more specifically identifying signaling pathways that can be modulated to enhance the antileukemic effects of arsenic trioxide.

SOCIAL EVENTS



Left to right: Konstantinos Ketonis, Stephanos Pavlides, Dr. Ioannis Michailidis, Dr. K. Drosatos, Emmanuela Filippidi

The Board of Directors organized a social event in Philadelphia, PA to promote the interaction of our members from PA and adjacent states as well as with the Board members. The event was held on March 8 at Drexel University with the contribution of one of our members, Dr A. Astrinidis and the Drexel University

Hellenic Society. The atmosphere was very nice among those who joined the event. More events will follow since there will be a local representative of the HBA-USA, Stephanos Pavlides, that will coordinate scientific and social activities for the local community of the HBA-USA members.



Left to right: Dr. K. Drosatos, Dr. Joanna Floros, Dr. David Phelps, Dr. Anastasios Lymperopoulos, Dr. Maria Limberis

Meet our new local representative in Pennsylvania

From an early age **Stephanos Pavlides** knew that he wanted to be a scientist. In 2002, during his undergraduate studies, Stephanos obtained an internship with the *NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene* and worked on an challenging health project involving the West Nile Virus. Early 2003, he volunteered at *The Rockefeller University*, in Dr. Jan Breslow's laboratory. Later that year he was awarded the prestigious Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), where he began to work on mouse models for genetic susceptibility to atherosclerosis. At 2004, he received his B.S. in



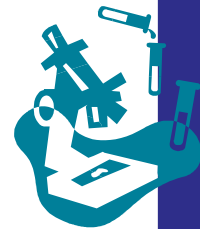
biology from St. Francis College in New York City, and then was accepted into the Ph.D. program at *Albert Einstein College of Medicine*. However, at this current junction, he is currently pursuing his studies at *Thomas Jefferson University*, in Philadelphia, under the supervision of the renowned scientist Dr. Michael Lisanti. Stephanos was an excellent student, liked and admired by both faculty and his peers. To quote one of his professors, "Stephanos has a manner that is truly infectious. He is a young man who is very determined, driven and totally mesmerized by the quest for knowledge and answers."

Meet our new local representatives in New York

Dr. Ioannis Michailidis is a postdoctoral fellow at the department of Biological Sciences of Columbia University. After a brief term at the University of Patras, he completed his Bachelor's in Biological Sciences at the University of Athens, Greece. He obtained his M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine of NYU, working on signal transduction pathways of phospholipid regulation of ionotropic receptors and receptor tyrosine kinases. His research interests at Columbia include neuronal cell biology and ion channel trafficking, as well as theory of cognition, learning, memory and consciousness.



Anastasia Z. Kalea, born in Kozani, Greece graduated with a BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from Harokopio University, Athens, Greece after fulfilling her internship clinical nutrition program at Georgios Gennimatas Hospital in Athens. After working for a short period as a dietitian, she decided to continue her interest in research in the US, joining Dr. Klimis-Zacas' laboratory at the Dept. Food Science and Human Nutrition of the University of Maine. Anastasia graduated with her Ph.D. in Food and Nutrition Sciences and her dissertation was focused on the effect of trace elements on vascular structure and function. She continued her training as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Maine studying the effect of diet on vascular physiology and on 2006 she joined as a postdoctoral scientist the research team of the Dept. of Surgery at Columbia University. She currently works with Drs Ann Marie Schmidt and Barry Hudson on various projects among which the role of the receptor of advanced glycation endproducts on vascular inflammation, diabetes and cancer and also on the genetics of type 1 diabetes. She has recently being awarded a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Fellowship to study molecular mechanisms of type 1 diabetes complications.



Top 10 publications list

The best 10 original papers published during the 1st quarter of 2008 by Greek/Greek-American researchers, that have registered with the HBA-USA, have been posted on the association's website (www.hba-usa.org). This is an effort aiming to highlight the scientific production of the Greek researchers who are members of the Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA.

Visit our website to view these papers

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

- **Director** for Biomedical Informatics (Johnson & Johnson, Radnor PA)
- **Manager** for Biomedical Informatics (Johnson & Johnson, Radnor PA)
- **Scientist/Senior Scientist** in Informatics-Drug Discovery (Johnson & Johnson, Belgium)
- **Scientist/Senior Scientist** in Informatics-Functional Genomics, Pharmacogenomics, Translational Research (Johnson & Johnson, Belgium)
- **Faculty** positions for Bioscientists available in all Greek Universities
- **Assistant Professor** position opening (Division of Physiology, Medical School, University of Patras, Greece)
- **Faculty** position opening (Department of Computer Science, University of Crete, Greece)
- **Post-doctoral** position in Cancer Research (Imperial College, London, UK)
- **Post-doctoral** position in the role of Neuropeptides in fat tissue-mediated responses (UC Los Angeles)

Visit our website to find information about these positions



DUES FOR 2008

Please, remember to pay your dues for 2008. In order to make the Association stronger we need active support from our members!

Upcoming events

A social event has been scheduled for late April in Los Angeles, California with members from California and adjacent states. Details will be announced.



Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA

P.O. Box 231134
Boston, MA 02123-9998

E-mail: administrator@hba-usa.org

www.hba-usa.org