

Kyriaki Tryfinopoulou MD, MPH, PhD, EUPHEM-alumna

Assistant Professor of Clinical Microbiology

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Dr. Kyriaki Tryfinopoulou is a Medical Biopathologist/Laboratory-Medicine expert and Assistant Professor of Clinical Microbiology at the Laboratory of Clinical Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis of the Medical School of the University of Crete and the University Hospital of Heraklion, Crete, since October 2023.

She served as Head of the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) of the National Public Health Organization (NPHO) from April 8, 2020, until October 6, 2023, when she resigned to become a faculty member at the University of Crete.

Since September 2016, she holds the title of Public Health Microbiologist after completing the two-year European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) - European Public Health Microbiology Training Program (EUPHEM, cohort 2014) and served as an EUPHEM supervisor for subsequent fellows, actively participating in all educational and administrative obligations of the supervisors according to the ECDC regulations.

From November 2016 until her resignation from NPHO, she was officially appointed as National Focal Point for Microbiology at ECDC, and since March 2020, as Operational focal point for COVID-19 (Laboratory). Both as National Focal Point for Microbiology and as a Public Health Microbiologist, she represented the country in numerous meetings at ECDC on topics related to Microbiology, Molecular Microbiology, laboratory diagnosis, and surveillance of diseases relevant to Public Health, in pan-European simulation exercises to strengthen the country's preparedness for cross-border threats, and was part of the outbreak investigation team of infectious diseases of NPHO in close cooperation with the Departments of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention of NPHO.

She was the National coordinator for the country's participation in the following ECDC studies/programs: a) Genomic-based surveillance of carbapenem-resistant and colistin-resistant Enterobacteriaceae at the EU level - (EURGen-Net, 2019-2020), b) CCRE follow-up survey 2022, c) EURGen-Net AMR Ref LabCap project (2021-2024), d) FWDAMR-RefLabCap Project (2021-2024), e) ECDC Clostridioides ID WGS 2022.

Her main scientific interests are in Clinical and Public Health Microbiology, aiming to provide reliable laboratory data at both patient and population levels, for clinical decision-making and Public Health measures respectively. Since 2009, she has been investigating the mechanisms behind antibiotic resistance in clinical strains of major pathogenic bacteria. Her research aims to unravel how resistant microorganisms emerge and spread within both hospital and community settings, with the ultimate goal of informing antibiotic stewardship policies and enhancing infection control at clinical and community level.

Beginning in 2020, her scientific focus has broadened to include the systematic use of molecular biology and genomics tools for the diagnosis, the molecular epidemiology and the laboratory surveillance of infectious diseases.

Additionally, she has a keen interest in Biosafety and Biosecurity and has been trainer on Biorisk management, after her participation as the Greek representative in «WHO Biorisk Management Advanced Trainer Programme, Training trainers in Biorisk assessment, biorisk mitigation, performance and adult learning techniques: designing & delivering learning programmes”.

Dr. Tryfinopoulou has participated in many research programs, and she has 48 publications in peer reviewed international journals (2,139 citations, h-index 16).

She is a core member of the National Antibiogram Committee and a member of the Specialized Infection Control Team of the 7th Health Region of Crete. Lastly, she is the elected General Secretary of the new board of the Hellenic Society of Clinical Microbiology and Laboratory Diagnosis and the General Secretary of the board of the Hellenic Biosafety Society. Finally, she is member of the Hellenic Microbiology Society and the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.