Brief CV

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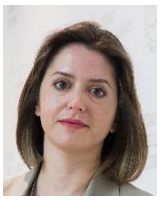

Eleni Vergadi is currently an Assistant Professor of Paediatrics at the Medical School of University of Crete and Consultant in Paediatrics, at Heraklion University Hospital. Dr Vergadi graduated from the Medical School of the University of Crete with honors, she obtained a Master of Science degree in Molecular Basis of Human Disease (University of Crete), a Doctoral Degree in Immunology at the University of Crete and Harvard University and recently a postgraduate diploma in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at Oxford University.

She has served as a research fellow at Harvard Medical School, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB-Forth), Dresden Bioinnovation Center and University of Crete and she has been trained in Paediatrics at Children's Hospital Boston and Heraklion University Hospital. During her studies, she has been recipient of several awards and scholarships for excellence in academic and research records.

Currently she devotes her time to patient clinical care, teaching and research. She is actively involved in both clinical and laboratory-based translational research focusing on Paediatrics, Infectious Diseases and Host Defense and has relevant, highly cited publications in major peer-reviewed international journals. Dr Vergadi has been a recipient of several research grants and she is the principal investigator of the NeoPhagES Project (Neonatal Phagocyte Enhancement in Sepsis). She supervises postgraduate and undergraduate students towards their thesis research projects. She is a member of the Committee of Education of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases and peer reviewer in international scientific journals.

Her current research interests are focused on the understanding of the innate immune responses of neonates and young infants to bacterial infections and the identification of the immune pathways that cause susceptibility of neonatal hosts to sepsis. More specifically, she is studying the mechanism of autophagy mediated phagocytosis in young infants and its role in eliminating group B streptococcal infections, the expression and function of endogenous inhibitors of leucocyte adhesion in the innate immune responses of young hosts and, finally, the TLR signaling regulators and long non-coding RNAs that differentially control the neonatal monocyte responses to TLR stimulation compared to adults.