

## MONTHLY ALUMNI RESEARCH SEMINARS

As part of our ongoing effort to maintain and strengthen connections with the alumni of the School of Medicine of the University of Crete (UoC), we are pleased to announce the launch of the UoC Alumni Research Seminar Series for 2026. This initiative aims to bring cutting-edge knowledge in basic, translational and clinical research, reflecting the scientific work and career trajectories of our alumni, while fostering stronger links between the Medical School and distinguished alumni physicians and scientists working abroad. The seminar series is open to consultants, residents, medical students in their clinical clerkships and biomedical scientists.



### Contact us

**Alumni USA and Europe Ambassadors**  
George Stamatiades  
[gstamatiades@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:gstamatiades@bwh.harvard.edu)  
Χρήστος Τσαγκάρης  
[chriss20x@gmail.com](mailto:chriss20x@gmail.com)

**Alumni Greek Ambassadors**  
Nikolaos Galanakis  
[ngalanakis@uoc.gr](mailto:ngalanakis@uoc.gr)  
Ioannis Sperelakis  
[ysperelakis@uoc.gr](mailto:ysperelakis@uoc.gr)

**Dean School of Medicine UoC**  
Helen Papadaki  
[e.papadaki@uoc.gr](mailto:e.papadaki@uoc.gr)

# UoC Medical School Alumni Research Seminars



## OBJECTIVES

The UoC Alumni Research Seminars is a monthly seminar series aiming to:

- Highlight the research excellence and global impact of the UoC alumni.
- Strengthen scientific ties between UoC and its alumni community.
- Expose students and early-career researchers to diverse research paths and career trajectories.
- Promote interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration.

Inspire the next generation of researchers through alumni scientific journeys.

- Build a sustainable platform for networking, mentorship, and collaboration.

## HOW TO ATTEND

The UoC Alumni Research Seminars are held monthly as virtual Zoom webinars on Wednesdays at 15:00 (Athens' time).

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uoc-gr.zoom.us/j/81890926483?pwd=k7bCyRo2iXoWUM50ThrCCIT8S1Apw.1>

Meeting ID: 818 9092 6483

Passcode: 417693

**11 March 2026**  
(15.00 – 16:00 Athens' time)

### **Georgios Vrakas, MD, MSc, PhD, FRC**

Program Director of the Adult & Pediatric Kidney & Pancreas Transplant Programs

Professor of Surgery

Department of Surgery / College of Medicine

UF Health / University of Florida



### **Title: *The Future of Transplantation***

*Moderator: Emmanouil Chrysos, Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine, UoC*

### **Short CV of the speaker**

**Dr Georgios Vrakas**, is Professor of Surgery and Director of the Adult and Pediatric Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Programs at UF Health / University of Florida. He leads a high-volume academic transplant program with nationally ranked outcomes and sustained growth, achieving a #2 national ranking for one-year kidney transplant survival according to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR).

Dr. Vrakas began his medical training at the UoC School of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree. He subsequently completed a MSc in Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgery at the Democritus University of Thrace, followed by PhD at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, focusing on ischemic preconditioning of the intestine in transplantation.

He pursued advanced transplant surgery training through 4-years fellowships at Guy's and St Thomas', King's College, and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in UK. Following completion of his fellowship, he joined Oxford University Hospitals as a Consultant Transplant Surgeon and later served as Head of the Kidney Transplant Program.

In 2014, he was nominated for the prestigious British Transplantation Society Medawar Medal in recognition of his contributions to abdominal wall transplantation. The following year, he was named Surgical Trainer of the Year by the Department of Surgery at the University of Oxford. He also received the Young Investigator Award from The Transplantation Society in Hong Kong for his research on donor-specific antibody development following combined intestinal and vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA). That same year, he was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FRCS).

Most recently, Dr. Vrakas was honored with the Gold Cross of the Order of the Phoenix by the President of the Hellenic Republic in recognition of his outstanding contributions to medicine and transplantation.

Beyond his clinical and academic leadership, Dr. Vrakas is actively engaged in philanthropy. In 2017, he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and completed the Paris–London route on a tandem bicycle to raise funds for transplant-related charities.