

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

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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=k7bCyRo2iXxoWUM50ThrCCIT8S1Apw.1>

Meeting ID: 818 9092 6483

Passcode: 417693

22 April 2026
(15.00 – 16:00 Athens' time)



Michail S. Lionakis, MD, ScD

Chief, Laboratory of Clinical Immunology and Microbiology (LCIM)
Chief, Fungal Pathogenesis Section, LCIM
National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Title: Host defense against fungi: From the bench to patients

Moderator: George Chamilos, MD, Professor of Clinical Microbiology - Microbial Pathogenesis, University of Crete

Short CV of the speaker

Dr. Lionakis is a physician-scientist and Chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Clinical Immunology and Microbiology. He obtained his MD and ScD from the University of Crete in Greece. He did postdoctoral research at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, followed by Internal Medicine Residency at Baylor College of Medicine, and Infectious Disease Fellowship at NIAID. He established his own laboratory in 2012 at NIAID and received early tenure in 2017.

Dr. Lionakis' lab bench-to-bedside research investigates the genetic and immunological defects of human susceptibility to mucosal and invasive fungal infections and the cellular and molecular factors that regulate tissue-specific antifungal immunity. His work has defined precise genetic, biochemical, immunologic, and cellular disease mechanisms that have led to targeted immunotherapies. He has identified interferon-gammopathy as the driver of oral candidiasis and multiorgan autoimmunity in APECED/APS-1 and impaired microglial-neutrophil crosstalk as the driver of brain candidiasis in CARD9 deficiency. He has delineated novel inherited (Dectin-1 deficiency, CARD9 deficiency, LTBR deficiency, STAT3 haploinsufficiency) and acquired (BTK, complement inhibitors, GM-CSF autoantibodies) immunodeficiencies that cause opportunistic fungal infections in humans and has characterized the underlying immunological mechanisms.

Dr. Lionakis has published >300 peer-reviewed papers in journals such as *Science*, *Cell*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science Translational Medicine*, *Science Immunology*, *Nature Immunology*, *Cell Host and Microbe*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, and *Journal of Experimental Medicine*. He has been elected in the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) and the Association of American Physicians (AAP) and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), and the Clinical Immunology Society (CIS). He has received several awards including the NIH Director's award, the NIAID Merit award, the IDSA Oswald Avery Award for Early Achievement, and the American College of Physicians Walter J. McDonald Award for Early Career Physicians.