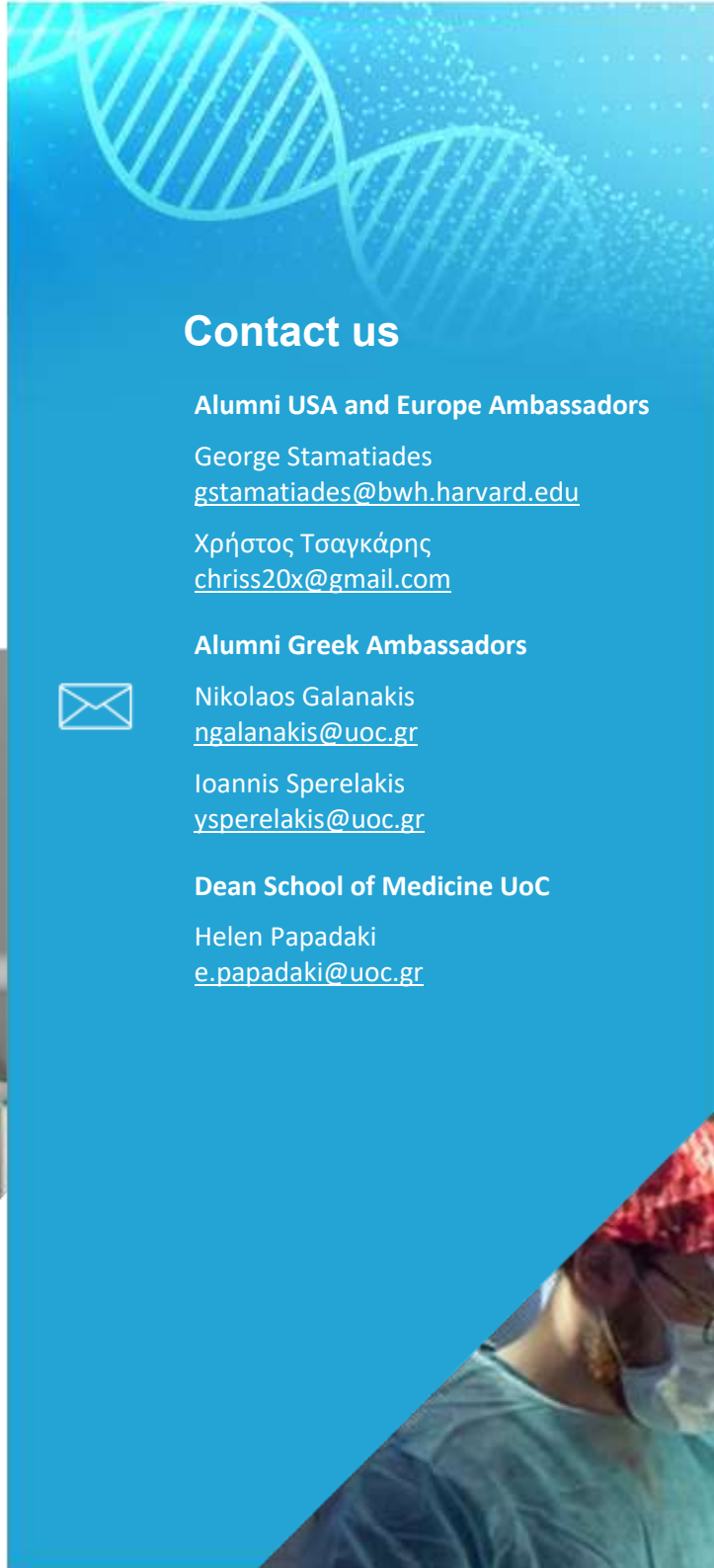


MONTHLY ALUMNI RESEARCH SEMINARS

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

20 May 2026
(16.00-17.00 Athens Time)



Alexandra Drakaki, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine, Hematology/Oncology and Urology
Medical Director of the Genitourinary Program
Co-Leader of Genitourinary Research at the Institute of Urologic Oncology
University of California, Los Angeles, UCLA

Title: *From treating bladder cancer to advancing and enhancing collaborations within the Department of Medicine and more!*

Moderator: *Charalampos Mamoulakis, Professor of Urology, School of Medicine, University of Crete*

Short CV of the speaker

Dr. Drakaki is a physician-scientist and the Medical Director of the Genitourinary Oncology Program at the University of California in Los Angeles. She has a dual appointment in Urology and is the Co-Leader of Research at the Institute of Urologic Oncology at UCLA. She obtained her Medical Degree from the University of Crete in 2006. Following that she completed her Internal Medicine Residency Training at a Tuft's Affiliate Hospital, and a Dual Fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, at Harvard Medical School. In parallel she was a research fellow at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, at Harvard Medical School where she worked on her thesis that she subsequently defended at the University of Crete in 2016. She completed a 2-year training program at the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute and in 2020 she received a certificate in the Clinical Program in Translational Science. This past academic year she was selected to be the first faculty to participate and undergo training as a scholar in East West Medicine, receive license to treat patients by using acupuncture and obtain the education to practice Integrative Medicine & Oncology.

Dr. Drakaki has been the principal investigator in multiple early and advanced stage clinical trials that have led to the FDA and EMA approval of novel drugs for bladder, kidney and prostate cancer, as well as the USA Lead and steering committee member of international studies with mission not only to identify new therapies for cancer but also to have Greece as one of the participating countries. Through the drug development process with agents such as immune checkpoint inhibitors and antibody drug conjugates, her scientific interest has broadened and focused on understanding the mechanism of treatment related toxicities and specifically immune related adverse events (irAEs). Through this research her goal is to eventually be able to treat patients with autoimmune diseases or irAEs and reverse/prevent toxicity without compromising the cancer directed therapy.

Dr. Drakaki has published >100 peer-reviewed papers in journals such as *The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO)*, *Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *Lancet Oncology*. She has been a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines for the treatment of testicular cancer. She has received the GI ASCO Merit Award, has been awarded year after year as one of the Rising Stars in California, Top Doctors of Los Angeles and recently as one of the Top Doctors in USA. She has been nominated for the Exceptional Physician Award for the UCLA Healthcare system, awarded several times as the mentor of the year from all subspecialties within the Department of Medicine as well as the teacher of the year for the Hematology and Oncology Fellowship Program. She is member of the Institution Review Board Committee (IRB), Scientific committee (ISPRC), Disease Study group lead (DSG), member of the Internal Medicine Residency Program, Hematology/ Oncology Fellowship Program and Urologic Oncology Fellowship Program. She received the International Women Award in science for the year of 2025. Throughout her career at UCLA, she was evaluated and underwent twice accelerated academic promotions with most recent to Full Professor.