



WORKSHOP

Autoimmunity:  
Clinical and diagnostic  
implications

Thursday, 9 May 2019  
15:00-20:00  
Da Vinci Amphitheatre,  
University of Nicosia

Organisers:



Sponsors:



14:30–15:00	<b>Registration</b>
15:00–15:10	<b>Welcome</b> Dr Stella Nicolaou, Assistant Professor of Immunology, Coordinator of the MSc in Biomedical Sciences  <b>Welcome Addresses</b> Dr Kyriacos Felekakis, Head of the Department of Life and Health Sciences Mr. Charis Charilaou, President of the Association of Clinical Directors, Biomedical and Clinical Laboratory Scientists
<b>Section I: (Da Vinci amphitheater, Europa Building)</b> <b>Chaired by Dr Stella Nicolaou</b>	
15:10–15:50	<b>Basic Principles of Autoimmunity (Lecture)</b> Dr Stella Nicolaou, Assistant Professor of Immunology, Coordinator of the MSc in Biomedical Sciences
15:50–16:30	<b>Autoimmunity in clinical practice (Lecture)</b> Prof. Joseph Joseph, Clinical Professor of Rheumatology, University of Nicosia Medical School
16:30–17:10	<b>Autoimmunity – the laboratory view (Lecture)</b> George Mitis, Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer, Health Insurance Organization
17:10–17:30	Break
<b>Section II: (EU206, EU208, Europa Building)</b> <b>Chaired by Dr Vicky Nicolaidou</b>	
17:30–19:30	<b>Applications of autoimmunity in the clinical laboratory and beyond (Case Study)</b> Dr Vicky Nicolaidou, Lecturer of Immunology, University of Nicosia Dr Maria Christofidou, Visiting Lecturer, University of Nicosia Dr Stella Nicolaou, Assistant Professor of Immunology
19:30–20:00	<b>Discussion / Concluding comments (Da Vinci amphitheater, Europa Building)</b>

## APPENDIX I: SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES OF PRESENTERS

**Dr Maria Christofidou** holds a BSc on Applied Biology from Northumbria University at Newcastle (2004), an MSc on Medical Genetics from Glasgow University (2005) and a PhD on Genetics/Genomic Epidemiology from the University of Manchester (2010). She is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Nicosia since 2011. Her teaching involves a wide range of biology related subjects including basic and advanced biology, genetics and research methods at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Since 2013 she has been a PBL tutor at the St. George's University of London Medical program delivered in Cyprus by the University of Nicosia Medical School. Her research interests include cancer genetics, epidemiology, genomic epidemiology, nutrigenomics and nutrigenetics.

**Prof. Joseph Joseph** is a Clinical Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Nicosia Medical School. Prof Joseph graduated from the University of Wales College of Medicine in the UK (MB BCH) and specialised in Oxford University obtaining dual accreditation – in Internal Medicine and in Rheumatology. His clinical interests include epidemiology of rheumatic diseases, inflammatory arthritis, patient information and Behcet's Disease.

**Mr. George Mitis** is currently a Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer for the Health Insurance Organization. He holds a BSc in Chemistry from Aristotelio University of Salonica, an MSc in Hospital management and an MSc in Biomedical Sciences. He has served as the Head of the Immunology Department in Nicosia General Hospital until May 2018 when he moved to the Health Insurance Organization. He has extensive experience in testing methods regarding virology, autoimmunity and allergy. Further he participated in local and EU funded research studies addressing issues related to his responsibilities of Hospital Laboratories as well as epidemiologic studies.

**Dr. Vicky Nicolaidou** is a Lecturer in the Department of Life and Health Sciences of the University of Nicosia. She holds a BSc in Biology from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (funded by the Cyprus State Scholarships Foundation (IKYK), an MRes (with Distinction)

in Biomedical Science and a PhD (funded by Arthritis Research UK) from Imperial College London, UK. She has worked as a postdoctoral researcher in Imperial College London, University of Oxford and The Center for the Study of Haematological Malignancies, Karaiskakiou Foundation, Nicosia, Cyprus. Since 2014 she joined the Department of Life and Health Sciences at the University of Nicosia as a Lecturer in Immunology, Microbiology and Virology. Dr Nicolaidou's research interests focus on immune system function and regulation, molecular and cellular mechanisms of inflammatory diseases, autoimmunity, immunometabolism and innovative techniques in Microbiology laboratory teaching. Her work has been published in various international peer-reviewed journals, in conference proceedings as well as books.

**Dr. Stella Nicolaou** is an Assistant Professor of Immunology at the Department of Life and Health Sciences at the University of Nicosia, the Coordinator of the MSc in Biomedical Sciences Program (focus on clinical immunology laboratory science) and a supervisor for the postgraduate certificate in Healthcare and Biomedical Education (PgCert HBE) offered by St. George's University of London (SGUL). Dr Nicolaou holds a BSc in Medical Technology by the University of Indianapolis, USA, (including an internship at St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers) and is a certified medical technologist and a member of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). Further she holds a PhD in Pathobiology and Molecular Medicine by the University of Cincinnati, USA and a PgCert HBE by SGUL. In 2015, Dr Nicolaou was appointed a member of the Review Bioethics Committee for the Clinical Trials of Medicinal Products of Human Use by the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee. Currently her active research interests focus on two areas (a) basic and epidemiological research relating to food allergies and (b) education research as it relates to the teaching of students in biomedical sciences. Her work has been published in international conference proceedings and refereed academic journals of Immunology and Medical Education.

