



# SYMPOSIUM

2022

**17 - 18  
DECEMBER**

**BOOKLET**

**ORGANIZER**  
**GREEK**   
**WOMEN IN**  
**STEM**

**Greek Women in STEM**  
celebrates women in science  
**"She STEMs"**

The symposium took place at Serafeio Community Center, Athens

# Welcome Message



**Lina Ntokou**  
*Founder of GWiS*

The first on site symposium organized by our group, Greek Women in STEM, was a success! This venture, although simple in concept, took many months of preparation and even more energy and love from our team members. Starting in the spring of 2022, 14 female science researchers across six countries in the EU and the USA coordinated, organised and fostered the conditions for the Greek Women in STEM community to get to know each other for the first time ever, in person!

Our supporters, companies and organisations that believe in our vision, played a catalytic role in this effort. Greek Women professionals in STEM fields are doing a remarkable work and this must be communicated to the world.

Two very important aspects of this symposium were the scientific talks and the networking. We are very happy to say today that both had a great impact. Our speakers delivered empowering talks, covering not only their scientific backgrounds, but also their personal journeys, which in most cases were full of ups and downs. This sparked the interest of our audience which was evident not only in the questions during the sessions but also in the additional discussions that took place throughout.

Personally, I want to thank all those who contributed to this action, from the bottom of my heart, either with their presence as an audience or as volunteers. I hope that we will continue to grow as an organisation and that the energy that goes by the name of Greek Women in STEM will help Greek women start or continue their path triumphantly, be a good example to follow for the next generations and finally, strengthen the good name that Greece has in the scientific fields with consistency, pride and recognition.

## About us



Greek Women in STEM is an initiative that supports gender equality and equity in STEM. Women's contribution to STEM fields is underrepresented and often unrecognised. We are here to help fill that gap and nurture a supportive and educational community of research and industry leaders, mentors and enthusiasts. At the same time, we are here to communicate what we love the most: Science!

## Our History

Greek Women in STEM started in 2020 as a blog dedicated to Greek Women scientists and their achievements. Soon, it became an organisation that established one of the first Mentoring programs free to all and an online science communication magazine.

## Our Mission

Greek Women in STEM seeks to highlight and support the work of Greek women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) and all related fields and deliver scientific news to the general public.

## Our Goals

Our work is spanned through three axes:

- interviews with the scientists
- articles, podcasts and events on scientific topics
- a mentoring program

# She STEMs

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Through interactive talks and scientific panels with scientists, we aspired to promote networking and interdisciplinary collaborations, bring together Greek scientists working in Greece and abroad and communicate scientific achievements to the public.

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The symposium Greek Women in STEM 2022 - She STEMs took place in December 17-18, at Serafeio in Athens.

This year our symposium was under the auspices of:

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

National Technical University of Athens

Institute of Computational Mathematics – Foundation for  
Research and Technology Hellas

University of Thessaly

University of Patras

Department of Electrical Engineering – University of  
Peloponnese



she  
STEMs

# Agenda

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Saturday 17.12.2022

Welcome and introductions

Biosciences

Special session I: Career Advice

Physics & Mathematics

Technology

Career fair & networking

Sunday 18.12.2022

Engineering

Special session II: STEM in Education

Sustainability

Science Communication

Awards Ceremony & Closing Remarks

Career fair & networking

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# Biosciences

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## ***Era Taoufik***

Era is a neurobiologist, leading a team at the Hellenic Pasteur Institute, developing new cutting-edge technologies combined with the creation & optimisation of cell and animal models, for the deep understanding of pathogenesis mechanisms and the discovery of new therapeutic approaches for neurodegenerative diseases.



## ***Marianna Christodoulou***

Marianna is an Assistant Professor of Immunology, at the Department of Life Sciences of the European University of Cyprus. She is also the coordinator of the “Biology of Cancer” Master’s Program and a collaborating researcher at the school of Infectious Diseases at the University of Glasgow.



## ***Ourania Tsitsiloni***

Ourania is a Professor of Immunology at the Kapodistrian University of Athens. She worked in Germany and at “Agios Savvas” Hospital where she practiced in Biopathology. Currently, she is Head of the Flow Cytometry Unit of Kapodistrian University and a Visiting Professor at the European University of Cyprus.

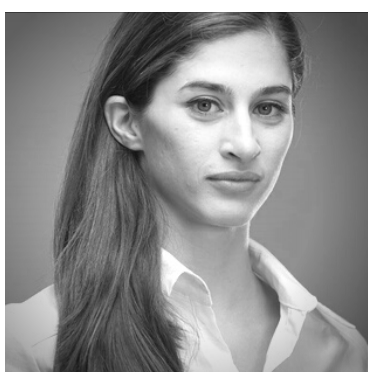
# Career Advice

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## ***Areti Mourka***

Areti is a PhD graduate from the University of St. Andrews in the UK and received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the Physics Department of the University of Crete. As a technology transfer consultant, she has been actively involved in supporting SMEs and research laboratories in technology transfer, innovation management and funding search.



## ***Marina Papachristopoulou***

Marina is a Mechanical Engineer in a research and development department in a pharmaceutical company. She works on product design and development.

Marina is also the founder of the Foggnos company while she is pursuing a PhD at the NTUA.



## ***Pavlina Nanou***

Pavlina is Dr. Chemical Engineer with 15 years of experience on thermochemical processes for the production of biofuels. For the last 7 years she has been responsible for scaling up the innovative TORWASH technology from laboratory experiments to the first pilot plant. Since 2020 she is co-founder and managing director of the TORWASH company.



## ***Maria Papathanasiou***

Maria is Assistant Professor at the Imperial College London. Her Life Science and Process Systems Engineering research group, aims to create mathematical models for the optimization of biological production systems and supply chains. She actively advocates and supports Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

# Physics & Mathematics

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## ***Ioanna Zergioti***

Ioanna is a Professor at the National Technical University of Athens and Researcher in the field of laser bioprinting and additive manufacturing. Lately, she is focusing on translating the research on laser bioprinting technology for regenerative medicine applications into commercially viable products within the spin-off PhosPrint P.C.



## ***Kiki Theodorou***

Kiki is a Professor of Physics-Informatics at the department of Medicine at the University of Thessaly. She works on research and education, while, as a Radiophysicist, her clinical work focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of patients using radiation.



## ***Maria Chlouveraki***

Maria is an Assistant Professor at the Mathematics Department of the Kapodistrian University of Athens. She works in theoretical mathematics and specifically algebra, in the field of representation theory. For the last ten years she worked at the University of Versailles.



# Technology

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## ***Elena Barla***

Elena is the co-Founder and CEO of Among Doctors, a multi-awarded digital health startup helping physicians and healthcare institutions improve patient treatment globally. She is also a Sr. Director and Head of People Strategy and Digital Innovation Unit at Stanton Chase leadership advisory firm, helping companies in their digital transformation and innovation.



## ***Thalia Dimitra Doudali***

Thalia Dimitra is an Assistant Professor at the IMDEA Software Institute in Madrid, Spain. She completed her PhD in computer science at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta, USA, in 2021. She is a graduate of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens.



## ***Julie Simou***

Julie Simou is Head of the Data Management Section at Elpedison S.A., and responsible for the organisation's data management strategy, utilising Data Management and Analytics technology and services. She holds a B.Sc. in Informatics from the University of Ioannina and an MBA from the University of Piraeus.

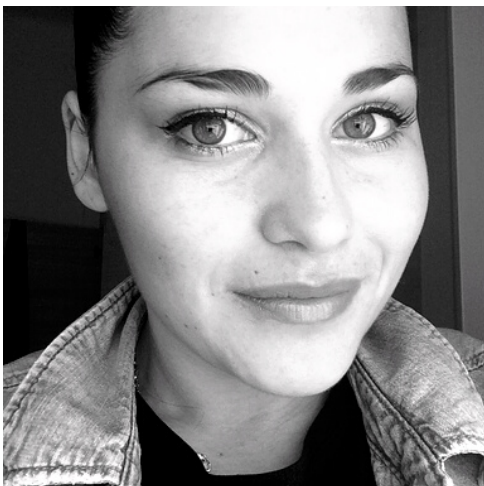
# Engineering

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## ***Panagiota Aggeli***

Panagiota is a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at University College London. Her area of expertise is fluid dynamics with specialisation in multiphase flows. Her research focuses on their applications in the separation of critical and rare metals that are necessary in alternative forms of energy.



## ***Evanthia Pappa***

Evanthia holds a PhD from the University of Edinburgh in the field of composite materials. After more than a decade in the university community, she chose to join the Technology and Innovation Office of Leonardo Spa, Italy as a Specialist Researcher of innovative materials optimizing their properties, costs and life span.



## ***Stavrina Devetzoglou***

Stavrina is a Clinical Research Associate. Her primary role is to guide the research team in the conduct of a clinical study to protect patient safety and data integrity, as well as oversee required procedures in accordance with protocol and applicable law.

# STEM in Education

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## ***Aimilia Smyrli***

Aimilia is an Astrophysicist (Solar Physicist) and currently working at the Education Office at Demokritos as Science Communication Officer. She has worked as an Outreach Officer for 6 years in the UK. She worked for Isaac Physics and The Ogden Trust and as a lecturer for 7 years at UCLan.



## ***Despoina Korentini***

Despoina is a philologist-historian, a graduate of Kapodistrian University in Athens and a distinguished educator of gifted students of the Hellenic MENSA. She has an M.Sc. in Educational Sciences, specialising in a. Giftedness b. Learning Difficulties and is an Educational Consultant & Researcher in innovative educational methods.



## ***Pandora Sifnioti***

Pandora Sifnioti is the STEM Director at the Civic, Non-Profit Company SciCo. She is a chemical engineer, and since 2014 she has been actively involved in empowering teachers and youth through STEM education.

# Sustainability

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## ***Athanasia Petala***

Athanasia is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Environment of the Ionian University. Her research focuses on Photocatalysis and Advanced Oxidation Processes. Particular emphasis is placed on the synthesis of innovative catalysts and their applications in the fields of environmental protection and energy production.



## ***Katerina Ronga***

Katerina is a Principal in the Risk Advisory department of Deloitte Greece for the last 3 years and responsible for the Sustainability Services for Deloitte Risk Advisory. Katerina holds more than 20 years of professional experience in a diverse range of areas, such as Sustainability, ESG transition & Climate Risk, Risk Management and many others.



## ***Valasia Iakovoglou***

Valasia has over 25 years of international experience specializing in Ecosystem Restoration/Conservation with an emphasis on Biodiversity. She has more than 100 publications and is an editor/reviewer in more than fifteen international journals. She is the Director of the Ecotourism Sector of the UNESCO Con-E-Ect Headquarters.



## ***Nafsika Stavridou***

Nafsika has a PhD in civil engineering from AUTH and a degree in Organisation and Business Administration from the University of Macedonia. She currently works at the European Research Council as a seconded National Expert while maintaining her academic, consulting and research activities.

# Science Communication

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## ***Eleni Routoula***

After 10 years studying as a chemical engineer, Eleni discovered that what drives her as a professional is helping others discover and improve their potential. After a personal and professional journey, she settled on employability, which she teaches mainly to chemical engineering students.



## ***Yakinthi Batsi***

Yakinthi is a Chemist with a M.Sc. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Ioannina. She currently works at the educational organisation SciCo as a Social Media Strategist. At the same time, she is completing her PhD at EIE in the field of pharmaceutical chemistry and works as a freelancer artist at the JAM pedals company.



## ***Theodora Loukanari***

After graduating from the Biotechnology department of the Agricultural University, and shortly before completing a M.Sc. in Medical Genetics, Theodora clinked her glass with Pint of Science Greece, of which she is currently co-director. Their goal is to bring science to the public in a relaxed and fun way.

# She STEMs

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For a second year, Greek Women in STEM awarded early-stage Greek scientists with a €200 award per category as part of the “She STEMs” symposium, with the support of our donors. The winners in each category are the following:

Ekaterina-Michaela Tomou - Life Sciences

Marula Tsagkari - Environmental Sciences

Anastasia Tezari- Formal Sciences

Michaela Gkantou - Engineering

Maria Tzelepi - Technology

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For the first time, Greek Women in STEM awarded two early-stage Greek women scientists pursuing their PhD with a €3.500 scholarship each, thanks to a generous donation from Bayer-Hellas. The winner at each category are the following:

Nikoleta Bizymi - Cancer Research and relevant disciplines

Anastasia Boutsika - Agriculture and relevant disciplines

The logo for 'she STEMs' is centered at the bottom of the page. It features the word 'she' in a lowercase, white, sans-serif font above the word 'STEMs' in a larger, uppercase, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a solid purple square. The entire logo is enclosed within a white L-shaped border that starts from the bottom-left and goes up and right, then down and right, then up and left, forming a partial frame around the text and square.

she  
STEMs

# Take-home Message



**Chrysovalantou Kalaitzidou**  
*Chief Executive Officer of GWiS*

She STEMs complements our actions and mission as an organisation. It is about a celebration to promote and showcase Greek women scientists, academics, researchers and professionals, but also a chance to communicate science to the general public, while encouraging younger generations to follow a path into science. But above all, an opportunity to meet all these fantastic people in real life. I have no words to describe how inspired we all felt after each talk, after each panel discussion.

All these exceptional women gave us so many reasons to be proud, to be present, to be empowered, to keep empowering others.

A couple of years ago, I opened a discussion on our collaborative platform at Greek Women in STEM about the importance of a Symposium dedicated solely to Greek women in STEM. The main reason was -and still is- that we needed to mark our presence and build a hub where we all start exchanging advice, stories and of course Science. Back then, it started as a rough idea with lots of excitement. Two years after, I couldn't be more proud of us, my girls-my family at GWiS, especially because we all did this during our spare time as volunteers, while leading busy professional lives and being located in EU, UK and USA.

A pivotal moment for me was the first applause after my opening speech. It was a moving and liberating moment. We are not just talking about a symposium dedicated to Greek women scientists. We are talking about the *first ever* in person symposium that took place in our country under this theme. What was constantly in my mind during this amazing weekend was, "I don't know where we will be tomorrow, but today we are here. And we're making history."

# Behind the scenes

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## ***Lina Ntokou***

*General Management & Secure Funding*

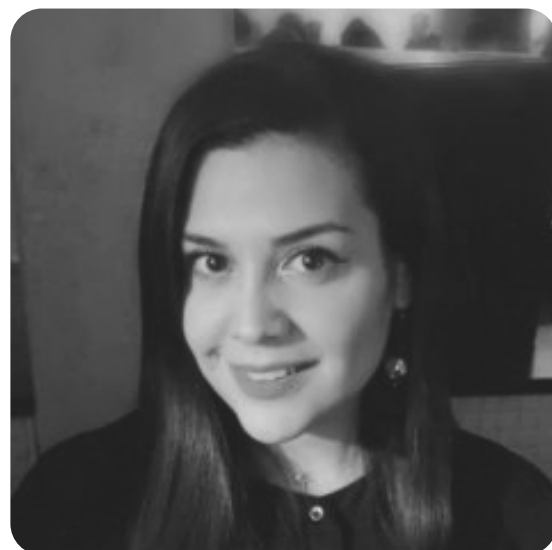
Lina is a Biologist (MSc, PhD) and works as a researcher at Yale University, USA studying lung pathobiology.



## ***Chrysovalantou Kalaitzidou***

*General Planning & Marketing*

Chrysovalantou holds a BSc in Applied Mathematics, a MSc in Bioinformatics and she currently is a doctoral researcher in Computational Sciences at University of Luxembourg.



## ***Danai Korre***

*Merchandise Design & Production*

Danai is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Augmented and Virtual Reality at the University of Edinburgh, UK. She holds a MSc in digital media and a PhD in Informatics.



# Behind the scenes

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## *Social Media Content Creators & Campaign*



### ***Tatiana Charikleia Styliari***

Tatiana is a Senior Design Researcher at Deloitte UK, specialising in Human Computer Interaction, UX & digital transformation. She holds a BSc in International and European Studies, a MSc in European Communication and a PhD in Digital Economy.



### ***Niki Michalopoulou***

Niki is a Mathematician specialising in the field of Technology. She is currently doing her master's degree in Bioinformatics & Neuroinformatics at the Hellenic Open University.

# Behind the scenes

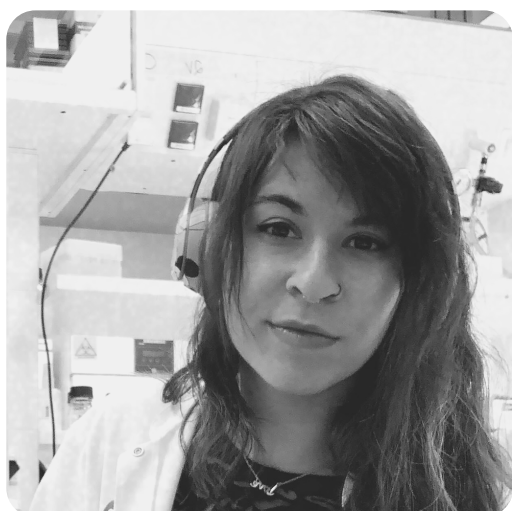
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## *Administration and sessions organization*



### ***Kelly Kousi***

Kelly is a Chemist (MRes, PhD) and she is currently a lecturer at the University of Surrey, UK. Her research focuses on Catalysis and Energy Materials.



### ***Myrto Patraskaki***

Myrto is a Biochemist specialising in molecular biology. She is currently working towards her PhD in Neuroscience at the Luxembourg Center for Systems Biomedicine.



### ***Georgia Paraskaki***

Georgia is a post-doctoral researcher in physics, working on novel accelerator schemes. She holds a BSc in Physics and a MSc in Synchrotron Radiation Based Science, Accelerator Physics.

# Behind the scenes

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## *General Assistance*



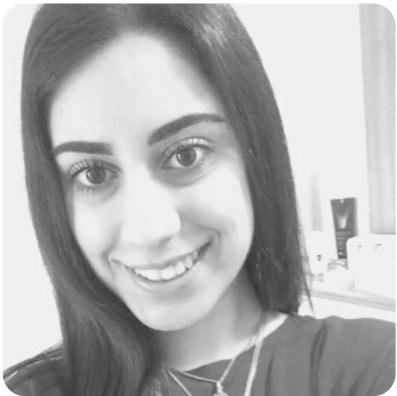
### ***Kiki Barmpa***

Kiki is a Biologist with a MSc in Biotechnology and she is currently working towards her PhD in Neurobiology at the University of Luxembourg.



### ***Naya Nikolaou***

Naya is a pharmacist, specialising in cardiovascular pharmacology. Her PhD is on light chain amyloidosis and she is a postdoctoral researcher at the School of Pharmacy, Kapodistrian University of Athens.



### ***Maria Koumouri***

Maria is a Biomedical scientist (BSc) with a Master's degree in Immunology. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Cancer Biology at the University of Cyprus.



### ***Stella Telliou***

Stella is a Biology undergraduate student at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki specialising in Molecular Biology and Genetics with a passion for laboratory research.

# Acknowledgements

Greek Women in STEM Symposium 2022 - She STEMs would not have been possible without the enormous support of the Universities, the Organisations and the Donors who share our vision towards equity in STEM and wished to celebrate with us our achievements. We are extremely grateful to Serafeio - City of Athens for hosting our venue and our guardians at Aegis, the non-profit organisation which legally represents Greek Women in STEM, for their constant help.

**Thank you!**

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## Event host:



## Support:



## Under the auspices of:



## Donors:



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**If you wanna go fast - go alone.  
If you wanna go far - go together.**

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***Design & Implementation:***  
**Chrysovalantou Kalaitzidou**  
**CEO & Chief Editor at Greek Women in STEM**

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