

Associate Professor Mara Simopoulou

Short Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Mara Simopoulou is an Associate Professor of Physiology and Embryology at the Medical School of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), and a Deputy Laboratory Manager of the Assisted Conception Unit of the Second Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Aretaieion University Hospital. At the same time, she holds the position of the Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at the Institute of Women's Health of the Medical School of the University College London in the United Kingdom. She is the Academic and Scientific Director of the first Specialized Training Programme in "Advanced Course in Clinical Embryology" at the Department of Physiology of the of the Medical School of the NKUA in Greece. Dr. Simopoulou serves as a Lecturer for a plethora of Postgraduate Programs in Greece and Abroad. Since the academic Year 2022-2023 she is the Director of the Master of Science Program in "Molecular & Applied Physiology" at the Department of Physiology of the School of Medicine of the NKUA. She has further introduced a specialized direction on "Clinical Embryology and Genetics of the Preimplantation Embryo" as part of the MSc.

She completed her Bachelor of Science studies in Molecular Biology at "King's College University" in London. She received her M.Sc. and Ph.D in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Human Genetics from the University College London, where she served as a Research Fellow, specialising in Preimplantation Genetic Testing. She completed her postgraduate training at the Mount Sinai Hospital of New York. She is a certified Senior Clinical Embryologist by the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) and she is also licenced by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to perform micromanipulation in the United Kingdom. Her academic faculty career started at the Medical School of the Democritus University of Thrace and the Department of Physiology, where she served as Lecturer in Clinical Embryology and then as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Embryology from 2005 to 2013. She has also served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver Canada. From 2013 till now, she holds academic appointments at the Department of Physiology of the Medical School of NKUA, as well as at the Second Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the same University, serving as a Lecturer, Assistant Professor with tenure and Associate Professor. She is a member of numerous scientific societies. Indicatively, Founding Member and Secretary General of the newly established Scientific Society of Clinical Embryology and Biology of Human Reproduction-Greece, Member of the Board of Directors and Secretary General of the Institute of Applied Physiology & Exercise in Medicine, and official representative of Greece in the

International Fertility Education Initiative. In the private sector she has worked as a senior consultant clinical embryologist and as Laboratory Director in Assisted Reproduction Units in Greece and abroad. She is a TEMOS Accreditation Body Inspector in the field of International Patient Healthcare in Reproductive Medicine, and was recently appointed an assessor for the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) accreditation of program for training in Clinical Embryology for the.

Her research activities are focused on Reproductive Physiology, with a special interest in preimplantation embryo physiology and infertility management. She enjoys numerous collaborations with affiliated University Departments, Assisted Reproduction Units and Hospitals, in England, USA, Canada, Malta and Greece. She has authored and co-authored over 94 published papers in peer-reviewed international journals (h-index 25 with over 1600 citations according to Google Scholar). She has served as an invited speaker, Chair of round tables, Member of the organizing, scientific and steering committees for numerous international conferences in the field of Clinical Embryology and Human Reproduction. Her personal mission is to contribute with her clinical, research and academic work to the successful completion of the reproductive journey of the infertile couple.