



2024  
SUMMER SCHOOLS,  
MEDICAL SCHOOL,  
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE



Title of Summer School:



**“hATTR Amyloidosis: from bench to bedside”**

Scientific coordinator:

Ioannis Zaganas, Associate Professor of Neurology

Coordinating Department / Laboratory:

Neurology Department, University Hospital of Heraklion, Crete (Chair P. Mitsias)

Interdisciplinary: Yes

If yes, please name other Departments / Laboratories participating and their scientific coordinators:

**University of Crete**

Neurology Department (Ioannis Zaganas, Ioannis Karakis, Sophia Erimaki, Minas Tzagournisakis, Panayiotis Mitsias)

Cardiology Department (Georgios Kochiadakis, Maria Marketou)

Gastroenterology Department (Dimitrios Samonakis)

Hematology Department (Charalambos Pontikoglou)

Nuclear Medicine Department (Sofia Koukouraki)

Ophthalmology Department (Miltiadis Tsilimbaris)

Renal Medicine Department (Konstantinos Stylianou)

**Other Institutions**

Cardiology Department, Venizelio Hospital (Emmanouil Foukarakis, Daphni Korela)

General Description:

hATTR is increasingly recognized given the heightened awareness for the disease, driven by the availability of effective treatment options. In fact, hATTR is a model genetic disease, since several groundbreaking treatment modalities became available in recent years, such as siRNA and antisense oligonucleotides. Also, the disease is unique due to its great phenotypic heterogeneity, involving diverse organs, such as the peripheral and central nervous system, the heart, the eyes, the kidneys etc.

The summer school “hATTR Amyloidosis: from bench to bedside” aims to expose participants to the challenges of early detecting hATTR, given the importance of early initiation of disease modifying therapies. Also, it will highlight the interdisciplinary approach needed for the management of this multifaceted disease, as employed in the health care ecosystem of Heraklion, Crete. This ecosystem has evolved due to the increased prevalence of disease on the island. Finally, this summer school aims to expose participants to the cutting-edge treatment modalities available to patients in Crete and elsewhere.

The structure of the program entails both clinical practice and hands-on laboratory experience and lectures by distinguished scientists running in parallel. A total of 16 participants will be practicing in groups in the Departments of the University Hospital of Heraklion and the Venizelio Hospital involved in this summer school (Neurology, Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Hematology, Nuclear Medicine, Ophthalmology, Pathology, Renal Medicine) and the Laboratories of the University of Crete, Medical School (Neurogenetics / Neurodegenerative Disorders, Pathology). At the same time, the group will attend courses by experts in the field at 12-3pm.

The educational program described above will be joined by a social program, including a welcome dinner at a traditional Cretan restaurant and an educational excursion to Spinalonga, where participants will be introduced to the medical history of the island by a skilled guide.

**For more information please visit:**

<https://welcome.uoc.gr/2024/03/20/hattr-amyloidosis-from-bench-to-bedside/>

Purpose of Training (What will the trainees have learned at the end of the course):

The trainees are expected to acquire knowledge, based on an interdisciplinary approach, on the management of hATTR.

*Learning objectives:*

At the end of this summer schools, participants should be able to:

- 1) Understand the pathophysiology of TTR-related pathophysiology.
- 2) Identify clinical signs of possible TTR amyloidosis.
- 3) Formulate a diagnostic plan for patients with possible TTR amyloidosis.

Know the treatments available to patients with hATTR

Who is it for:

In training or early career physicians (neurologists, cardiologists etc)

Duration / location (1-4 weeks, how many cycles, dates of each cycle, places of training):

5 days, mid-June 2024 (Monday June 10th – Thursday June 13th), with an optional excursion on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Scientific-Organizing Committee:

Ioannis Zaganas (Scientific Coordinator)  
Panayiotis Mitsias (University of Crete)  
Emmanouil Foukarakis (Venizelio Hospital)  
Georgios Kochiadakis (University of Crete)  
Maria Marketou (University of Crete)  
Dimitrios Samonakis (University Hospital of Heraklion)  
Konstantinos Stylianou (University of Crete)  
Sofia Koukouraki (University of Crete)

Educators:

University of Crete

Ioannis Zaganas  
Panayiotis Mitsias  
Ioannis Karakis  
Georgios Kochiadakis  
Maria Marketou  
Sofia Koukouraki  
Miltiadis Tsilimbaris  
Konstantinos Stylianou  
Charalambos Pontikoglou

University Hospital of Heraklion

Minas Tzagournisakis  
Sofia Erimaki  
Dimitrios Samonakis  
Ioannis Sperelakis

Venizelio Hospital

Emmanouil Foukarakis  
Daphni Korela

Draft educational program (detailed by day):

Through zoom or in person, 3-hour classes, at 12pm each day, with the aim to be interactive:

Week 1, Day 1	Welcome, group allocation (I. Zaganas) Historical review (M. Tzagournisakis) Genetics and Pathophysiology (I. Zaganas)
Week 1, Day 2	Neurological manifestations of hATTR (I. Zaganas) Electrophysiology in hATTR (I. Karakis, S. Erimaki) Cardiological manifestations (E. Foukarakis) Ocular disease (M. Tsilimbaris) Gastroenterology (D. Samonakis)
Week 1, Day 3:	Nuclear Medicine (S. Koukouraki) Orthopedics (I. Sperelakis) Renal involvement (K. Stylianou)
Week 1, Day 4:	Multidisciplinary management of hATTR patients (I. Zaganas) Case presentations <b>Final Test</b> , Concluding Remarks (I. Zaganas)
Week 1, Day 5:	Optional excursion to Spinalonga

Participants will be also rotate in various Laboratories and Departments of the University of Crete and the University Hospital and the Venizelio Hospital of Heraklion (Neurology including electrophysiology suites, Cardiology including ultrasound facilities, Pathology, Nuclear Medicine, Research Laboratories in the Medical School of the University of Crete etc).

Draft social program (excursions, evenings, dinners, etc.):

During the summer school, one dinner and one excursion (with minimal fee) will be programmed, with the participation of participants and educators.

For information on Heraklion: [www.heraklion.gr/en](http://www.heraklion.gr/en)

Student selection process:

Maximum number of 16 participants

In training and early career physicians (neurologists, cardiologists etc)

Evaluation of CV and motivation letter by the scientific committee

Application procedure:

Online application (by email to [zaganas@uoc.gr](mailto:zaganas@uoc.gr))

Deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Proposed tuition costs per participant:

300 euros per participant (includes welcome dinner but does not include travel, accommodation, and an optional excursion with lunch)

Additional comments:

Accommodation and travel cost are not included in the tuition fees; however, we aim to provide relevant information to participants.