



#### **Title of Conference**

**Newborn genomic screening (gNBS): A public health necessity in the 21st century.**

**Date: February 19, 2026**

**Venue: Hellenic American Union, Massalias 22, Athens, Greece**

#### **Brief description**

A future where genomic sequencing (gNBS) is seamlessly integrated into newborn care, providing families and healthcare professionals with the necessary tools to make informed decisions about a child's health is not a distant reality. gNBS integrated in public health could be the tool for life-long personalized medicine. The conference will focus on public health ethics, data governance, handling of personal data, data storage and data utilization for innovation and drug development. The conference is organized by FirstSteps, the genomic screening initiative of Greece.

#### **Organizing Committee**

Chairman: Metropolitan Konstantinos, Orthodox Diocese of Singapore and SE Asia

Aristeidis Antsaklis, IASO General Hospital, Athens

Georgios Antonakis, University of Patras

Ioannis Georgiou, University of Ioannina

Alexandros Daponte, University of Thessaly

Georgios Daskalakis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Theoklis Zaoutis, P&A Kyriakou Children's Hospital, Athens

Bartha Maria Knoppers, McGill University

Georgios Makrydimas, University of Ioannina

Andreas Pampanos, Alexandra Hospital, Athens

Dimitrios Thanos, Academy of Athens

Petros Tsipouras, FirstSteps

Tasos Xefteris, EuroGenetica, Thessaloniki

#### **Program**

Thursday, 19 February 2026

Registration 14:00-14:45

Welcome and Introduction, Petros Tsipouras: 14:45-15:00

Session I: Precision Medicine (15:00-16:30)

Chairs: Paul R. Billings, Dimitrios Thanos

#### **Invited Presentations**

Dimitris Thanos (15:00-15:15)

Building Greece's Genomic Future: From Newborn Screening to Precision Medicine for all.

**FirstSteps® is a project run by Beginnings - Newborn Sequencing Initiative  
Skoufa 64, Athens, 10680 Greece**



Bartha Maria Knoppers (15:15-15:30)  
Setting the Stage for gNBS with public health ethics

**Panel: Newborn genomic screening as a gateway to life-long precision medicine.  
(15:30-16:30)**

**Moderator: Paul R. Billings**

**Panelists: David Bick\*, Ali Gharavi\*, Manolis Papasavas, Martin Reese, Kyriakos Souliotis**

**Coffee Break: 16:30-16:45**

**Session II: Data Governance (16:45-17:45)**

**Chairs: Silvia Salardi, Takis Vidalis**

**Invited Presentations**

**Silvia Salardi (16:45-16:55)**  
Ethical principles for public health screening.

**Fruzsina Molnar-Gabor (16:55-17:05)**  
Emerging EU data governance.

**Panel: Data governance (17:05-17:45)**

**Moderator: Takis Vidalis**

**Panelists: David Bick\*, Eftychia Oikonomou, Fruzsina Molnar-Gabor, Silvia Salardi**

**Coffee Break: 17:45-18:00**

**Official Opening 18:00-18:30**

**Session III: Innovation (18:30-19:30)**

**Chairs: Maria Chatzou, Mimi Lee**

**Invited Presentation**

**Maria Chatzou: (18:30-18:40) Breaking Borders in Biomedical Research: How Data Federation is accelerating cures.**

**Panel: How innovation can drive population screening programs (18:40-19:30)**

**Moderator: Mimi Lee**

**Panelists: Maria Chatzou, Kevin Hall, John Bouros, Terry Pirovolakis\*, Winston Yan\***

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Session IV: Ethics and Public Health Screening Programs (19:30-20:50)

Chairs: Metropolitan Konstantinos, Bartha Maria Knoppers

Invited Presentations:

**Mei Baker (19:30-19:45)**

Genomic sequencing in Newborn Screening: What it is-and is Not

**Aristeidis Antsaklis (19:45-19:55)**

Demographic changes in Greece: Are there any solutions?

Panel: Ethics and Public Health Screening Programs (19:55-20:50)

Moderator: Metropolitan Konstantinos

Panelists: Dimitris Athanasiou, Mei Baker, Bartha Maria Knoppers

Concluding Remarks 20:50-21:00

Petros Tsipouras

## SPEAKERS

**Metropolitan Konstantinos, Orthodox Diocese of Singapore and SE Asia**

**Aristeidis Antsaklis, IASO General Hospital**

**Dimitris Athanasiou, Rare Diseases, Greece**

**Mei Baker, University of Wisconsin, Madison**

**David Bick\*, Genomics England**

**Paul Billings, Stanford University**

**John Bouros, Alvion Pharmaceuticals, Athens**

**Maria Chatzou, Lifebit**

**Ali Gharavi\*, Columbia University**

**Kevin Hall, Illumina**

**Bartha Maria Knoppers, McGill University**

**Mimi Lee, GeneDx**

**Fruzsina Molnar-Gabor, University of Heidelberg**

**Eftychia Oikonomou, FirstSteps**

**Manolis Papasavas, Elpida Oncology Hospital for Children, Athens**

**Terry Pirovolakis\*, Elpida Therapeutics**

**Martin Reese, GeneDx**

**Silvia Salardi, University of Milano Bicocca**

**Kyriakos Souliotis, University of Peloponnese**

**Dimitris Thanos, Academy of Athens**

**Petros Tsipouras, FirstSteps**

**Takis Vidalis, BioMedLex, Athens**

**Winston Yan\*, Broad Institute**

The speakers with \* will join remotely