



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.

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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

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