



**Dear Fellow HMU Community Members,**

It is with great pleasure that the International Relations Office and the Social Work, Nursing and Nutrition Departments of the School of Health Sciences of the Hellenic Mediterranean University invite you to participate in the first of a series of e-symposia on *Health Communication Across the Health Professions* that we will be convening over the coming year with one of our institutional collaborators in the USA, the Rutgers University (see English language website: <https://www.rutgers.edu/about-rutgers>).

This very first event on Thursday, May 27, 2021, will focus on ***“Combating Discrimination in Healthcare and Fighting Health Disparities in Greece and the U.S.”*** and it will feature research presentations by faculty at Rutgers’ SC&I and SHP, but also HMU’s Departments of Nursing, Nutrition, and Social Work.

## E-SYMPOSIA IN THE CONTEXT OF A LARGER INITIATIVE TO FORGE PARTNERSHIPS IN GREECE

The e-symposia series is part of an array of activities HMU and Rutgers are collaborating on in the context of the International Academic Partnership Program-Greece (IAPP-Greece), an academic incubator program sponsored in 2020 by the Greek Ministry of Education, the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of International Education, and the Fulbright Foundation, among other organizations. IAPP-Greece is designed to promote collaboration between U.S. and Greek institutions of higher education. Rutgers' IAPP-Greece initiative is co-led by SC&I and SHP, with the support of Rutgers Global, and centers around the *Advancement of Health Communication Research, Education, and Practice Across the Health Professions, in Greece and the U.S.*

Please find below an outline of our **agenda** for the first e-symposium and a link to the **registration site** for the event. Additional information, including **bios** of all presenters, reaction panel members, and organizers can be found in the accompanying PDF. There will be a place to find out more information on the **Web** shortly.

*We look forward to connecting with you at this or a future event and please feel free to share this information with any of your colleagues and/or students to whom it may be of interest,*

Kostas Petridis, Ph.D. & Kleio Koutra, Ph.D.

*(We can be reached via e-mail at: [cpetridis@hmu.gr](mailto:cpetridis@hmu.gr), [kkoutra@hmu.gr](mailto:kkoutra@hmu.gr))*

### AGENDA, REGISTRATION, & OTHER EVENT-RELATED INFORMATION

**Public Event** *(Open to all who register in advance; please find registration link below)*

**Time:** 9 am – 10:30 am EDT (U.S.) / 4 pm – 5:30 pm (Greece)

**Registration:** To participate, please register by Monday, May 24, 2021, following the link below: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1st-joint-e-symposium-fighting-health-disparities-registration-153158903403>

- **Introductions and presentation of the HMU-Rutgers University partnership**  
Konstantinos Petridis, Ph.D., & Kleio Koutra, Ph.D. (Hellenic Mediterranean University)  
Matthew Matsaganis, Ph.D. & Riva Touger-Decker, Ph.D. (Rutgers University)
- **Research Presentations** *(presenters' names appear alphabetically)*

**Nursing Practice Environment and Employee Silence Regarding Patient Safety:  
The Mediating Role of Experienced Professional Discrimination**

George Kritsotakis, Ph.D. (Hellenic Mediterranean University)

**Psychosocial Needs of People Living in Extreme Poverty  
and Introducing Brief Interventions: The Case of Crete Region in Greece**

Maria G. Papadakaki, Ph.D. (Hellenic Mediterranean University)

**Understanding the Impact of Engagement with Cancer (Mis)information  
among Latino Facebook Users**

Yonaira Rivera, Ph.D., MPH (Rutgers University)

**Cancer Screening among Garifuna Women**

Lois Rockson, Ph.D., MPH (Rutgers University)

▪ **Reaction Panel, Q&A, and Discussion**

A panel of Rutgers SC&I and SHP faculty named below will initiate a Q&A session, during which all audience members will be able to ask questions of the presenters. All participants will be given an opportunity to have a dialogue on the issues raised by the research projects presented and their implications, and to identify top priorities for future research, teaching, professional practice, and policymaking.

*(Reaction Panel members, in alphabetical order)*

George Fragkiadakis, Ph.D., Hellenic Mediterranean University

Argyroula Kalaitzaki, Ph.D., Hellenic Mediterranean University

Nikoleta Ratsika, Ph.D., Hellenic Mediterranean University

Pamela Rothpletz-Puglia, Ed.D., RD, Rutgers University

Charles Senteio, Ph.D., MBA, MSW, Rutgers University

***CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION:*** A *certificate of participation* will be provided to all registered participants in the public event who express interest in receiving one. Participants will be able to indicate their interest right after the event, when the organizers will follow-up with them.