

The Museum of Physiology “Georgios Kotzias”

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Abstract

The Museum of Physiology “Georgios Kotzias” belongs to the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), it was established in 2020 and is accommodated in the Department of Physiology, Medical School, NKUA. It serves educational and research purposes, supporting the development of basic and applied biomedical research. The Museum houses a wide selection of historical instruments of Physiology (more than 200 instruments and scientific accessories) and the historical archive of Georgios Kotzias, a famous physician, neurophysiologist who won the American Lasker Price, the highest honor in medicine, in 1969.

The Museum’s mission is to meet the teaching and research needs of the Faculty of Medicine, to cooperate in any form with other museums, research centers and academic institutions, to participate in educational and research programmes that contribute to the dissemination of scientific knowledge and experience, to organize scientific lectures, workshops, seminars, conferences and other scientific events and to transmit academically cultivated knowledge to the wider society.

All the historical instruments of the Museum come from the “Laboratory of Experimental Physiology - Physiologeion” that was founded by Rigas Nikolaidis, Prof. of Physiology, in 1883.

The Museum’s collection includes items, among others, that someone could see in an experimental physiology laboratory in the early 20th century, such as kymographs, myographs, induction coils, galvanometers, rheotoms, Helmholtz’s resonators and models of sense organs.

The instruments come from a variety of well-known European manufacturers, such as E. Zimmermann (Leipzig), Wilh. Petzold (Leipzig), Baird & Tatlock (UK), C.F. Palmer (UK), Secretan (Paris), Johann Kruscich (Prague) and L. Castagna (Vienna).

Flora Zarani is Biologist, Laboratory and Teaching Staff, Laboratory of Physiology, Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. Her scientific interest is in Cellular Physiology and she is interested in promoting physical activity in adolescence. She has designed educational programs approved by the Ministry of Education for Primary and Secondary Education.

Panagiotis Lazos is a physics teacher in secondary education and the head of the 4th Laboratory Center of Natural Sciences of Athens. He is also a PhD student in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. His main research interest is history of scientific instruments of the 19th century in Greek education.

Panagiotis Lembessis, BSc, PhD is a molecular biologist at the Department of Physiology of the School of Medicine of the University of Athens. He is co-author of 58 publications in international journals. His work concerns the pathophysiology of intestinal cells, the molecular biology of Marfan syndrome and Grebe-type chondrodysplasia, and molecular diagnosis of metastatic cancers.

Polyxeni Gaitanari, PhD, works at the Medical School of the University of Athens as a Special Teaching Staff. She is responsible for the administrative planning and management of the Postgraduate Program “Molecular & Applied Physiology” as well as for the organization of scientific meetings and workshops of the Physiology Laboratory.

Panagoula Angelogianni, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Physiology, Dept. of Physiology, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece. The scientific work covers various aspects of Neuroendocrine Physiology with special interest in the endogenous opioid system and its implication in the mechanisms of drug addiction.

Anastassios Philippou, PhD, Associate Professor of Physiology - Exercise Physiology, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, Director of the Museum of Physiology “Georgios Kotzias”. His scientific work covers a wide field in the physiology of exercise and skeletal muscle, for which he has received international and Greek awards.