

Dr. Mara Simopoulou is a Professor in Physiology-Clinical Embryology at the Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). Since 2013, she serves as the Deputy Laboratory Director of the Embryology and Andrology Laboratories and the Cryopreservation Bank at the Assisted Reproduction Unit of the 2nd Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic, NKUA, Aretaieion Hospital. She currently holds an Honorary Associate Professor appointment at the Institute for Women's Health, University College London Medical School, and she has previously served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Clinical Embryology at the University of British Columbia's Medical School in Vancouver, Canada.

She is an appointed member of the Supervisory Board of the Hellenic National Authority of Medically Assisted Reproduction having also contributed as a member of the Special Task Force for establishing the Clinical Embryology specialization which operates under the auspices of the Central Health Council (KESY) and the Ministry of Health.

She is Head of the "Reproductive Physiology-Clinical Embryology Research Unit" AKA the "Simopoulou Lab" at NKUA, with a special interest in preimplantation embryo physiology and infertility management. Her has recently received funding by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI).

Professor Simopoulou is personally invested in Education and Training of Clinical Embryologists and Biologists of Human Reproduction. She founded Greece's first specialized international training program in Clinical Embryology, the "Advanced Course in Clinical Embryology." She is also a member of the Scientific Committee for the Masters' Programs of the NKUA Medical School: "Molecular and Applied Physiology" for which she established the "Clinical Embryology and Preimplantation Genetics" specialization. Dr. Simopoulou delivers lectures for a wide range of postgraduate programs both within Greece and internationally.

Dr. Simopoulou was granted the honor of representing Greece as an elected official delegate to the Committee of National Representatives (CNR) of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) and is Chair Elect of the Steering Committee of ESHRE's International Reproductive Health Education Collaboration (IRHEC), focusing on improving reproductive health awareness. She has also been appointed as an assessor for the ESHRE accreditation program for Clinical Embryology training. She is actively involved in various scientific societies, holding administrative roles. To name some, she serves as President of the Scientific Society of Clinical Embryology and Human Reproduction Biology, and for the Hellenic Physiology Society.

Dr. Simopoulou completed her undergraduate studies in Molecular Biology at King's College London. She received her MSc and PhD degrees from the Human Genetics and Clinical Embryology Group of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at University College London, where she also served as a Research Fellow, specializing in Preimplantation Genetic Testing, and she pursued further training in the Department of Human Genetics at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. She is also certified as a Senior Clinical Embryologist by ESHRE. In the private sector, she has worked as a

senior consultant clinical embryologist and Laboratory Manager in IVF clinics in Greece and abroad.

She has enjoyed numerous collaborations with university clinics, private IVF centers, and hospitals in the UK, USA, Canada, Malta, and Greece. Her research portfolio is comprised of over 110 peer-reviewed publications in international journals (h-index 40 with over 3968 citations according to Google Scholar). She is invited to numerous international conferences as a speaker, session chair, and member of organizing, scientific, and coordinating committees.

Her personal mission is to facilitate the successful completion of the reproductive journey for couples facing infertility through her efforts in clinical, research and academic work.