

Team Members

Host Organisation

Ms. Panagiota Papaioannou is the ASPIRE project manager (HO). She holds a Bachelor Degree in Rehabilitation Sciences and is currently completing an MSc on Cognitive Neurorehabilitation.

Dr. Anastasios Georgiou is the full time junior researcher of the ASPIRE project. After graduating as a Speech and Language Therapist in Greece, he worked as a speech therapist for a few years before moving to the UK and Ireland for post-graduate studies. He earned master's degrees in Special Educational Needs (with a post-graduate diploma in Dyslexia), Speech & Cleft, Clinical Speech & Language Studies (Dysphagia) and Clinical Neurology. In the past, he worked as a laboratory associate in Higher Education in Greece and as a Lecturer in Speech Pathology at James Cook University, Australia. He moved to the Cyprus University of Technology, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, to begin a PhD in Neurorehabilitation under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Maria Kambanaros. At the same, he teaches neurology and, neuroanatomy and clinical neurology, at the undergraduate (Department of Rehabilitation Sciences) and post-graduate levels (MSc Brain & Cognitive Sciences), respectively. His research interests include neuroimaging (fMRI) and neurostimulation (TMS and tDCS) for treatment of speech, language and swallowing disorders.

Dr. Nikos Konstantinou is the senior researcher (SR) and project manager (HO) of the ASPIRE project. He holds a PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience from University College London. His research interests focus on the cognitive mechanisms of attention, perception and working memory, and the neurological bases of these mechanisms using healthy and patient populations. He specializes in the use of behavioral experimental methods as well as neuroimaging (MRI) and neuromodulation stimulation (TMS) techniques. He is currently employed as a Special Scientist at the Cyprus University of Technology, where he teaches courses in the undergraduate program of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and in the MSc Brain and Cognitive Sciences in the School of Health Sciences related to his research interests and supervises students at the graduate and undergraduate level.

Prof. Gabriele Miceli is the foreign research organization advisor (HO.FROA) of the ASPIRE project. He received his medical degree in 1974, followed by Board-certifications in Neurology (1978) and Psychiatry (1983). He has been a full Professor of Neurology at the University of Trento since 2006. He was an invited visiting professor at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris (2006) and since 1985 had appointments that include the Scientific Advisory Committee, École Normale Supérieure (Paris, France), the Advisory Board, Center for the Neurobiology of Language Recovery, Northwestern University (Chicago), the Scientific committee, Science of Aphasia conference, and the scientific committee of the European Workshop on Cognitive Neuropsychology. Prof. Miceli is the author of over 90 papers in international, peer-reviewed journals (including Nature, Brain and Nature Neuroscience), of over 20 chapters in international volumes, and of 5 books. He has delivered more than 40 invited talks at European and US institutions, and keynote addresses at Italian and international meetings. A test battery for language disorders in Italian was translated into Spanish and Chinese. Prof. Miceli's main clinical and research interests are the cognitive neuroscience of language (functional neuroimaging studies in typical and brain-damaged populations; lesion studies in brain-damaged populations), the neural bases of recovery from brain damage, the development of

behavioural and neuromodulation techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of cognitive disorders that follow brain damage, and peri- and intra-operative assessment of language in awake surgery for brain gliomas. His neuropsychological investigations are aimed at: understanding the mechanisms underlying language representation and processing, correlating such mechanisms to the neural substrate, developing diagnostic tools for the evaluation of language functions in patients undergoing awake surgery procedures, developing diagnostic tools for adult language disorders (bedside aphasia exams for rapid evaluations in the acute stage; first- and second-level tasks for the detailed diagnosis of acquired language disorders), and developing experimental treatments of cognitive disorders in brain-damaged subjects. His neuromaging investigations are aimed at identifying the neural substrates of language processing in healthy volunteers, understanding how these substrates (mal)function under conditions of brain damage, and understanding how they can be modified by therapeutic interventions (speech/cognitive therapy; neuromodulation protocols as adjuncts to behavioural treatment).

Dr. Costas A. Christophi, is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Cyprus University of Technology and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. He has a strong background in statistics and his research combines methodological and collaborative applied investigations. He has experience in conducting large studies, including clinical trials, data management, coordination, and analysis. His main research interests focus on issues related to obesity and diabetes as well as tobacco control and health. He has been involved with several research projects in Cyprus, Middle East, Europe, and the USA. He has an outstanding research record in the areas of biostatistics and epidemiology and he has been the leading statistician in a number of studies resulting in several peer-reviewed publications in world leading journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine and the Lancet.

Dr. Michael Sirivianos, –h-index 12, 1301 citations– is an Assistant Professor at CUT since Jan 2012. Prior to that, he was an Associate Researcher in Telefonica Research. He holds a PhD from Duke University since 2010. His current research interests are in the fields of security in social networks, trust-aware design of distributed systems, secure device pairing, distributed databases, and large scale data processing. He has published papers in the most influential conferences and journals of Networked Systems, including ACM SIGCOMM, USENIX NSDI, IEEE INFOCOM, ACM/USENIX IMC and ACM Transactions on Networking. He has extensive experience in managing EU-funded projects. Specifically, he is the technical manager of the ReCRED project (Horizon 2020 Innovation Action - 2014, budget: 5M Euro) and the coordinator of the ENCASE project (Horizon 2020 Marie Curie RISE - 2015, budget: 2.1M Euro).

Partners

PA1: Melathron EOKA

Dr Demetris Demetriou is a specialist Physician and Nephrologist at Melathron Agoniston EOKA since December 2010. He holds a medical degree (Specialist Physician and nephrology) from University of Vienna, Austria. He is currently a member of Cyprus Nephrology Association, Union Doctors of Cyprus, and Cyprus Medical Association. He is a tutor for the students of St George's University of London Medical Programme delivered in Cyprus by the University of Nicosia Medical School. He has published medical studies in international medical journals as part of various collaborative projects. More recently, he started working on the statistical analysis of rehabilitation data in Cyprus.

PA2: Gialletto LTD-Prognosis Diagnostic Center

Mr. Stelios Angeli was born in Nicosia, Cyprus, in 1984. He received the B.Sc. degree in Physics specialized in Nuclear Physics from the University of Athens, Greece, in 2008 and the M.Sc. degree in Biomedical Engineering with Medical Physics from Imperial College London, United Kingdom, in 2009. He is currently employed as a Medical Physicist in the Prognosis Diagnostic Center and he teaches as invited lecturer to the Intercollege Larnaca. He is also currently working towards his Ph.D. degree at the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, University of Cyprus, Cyprus. His research interests include finite element modeling and simulations of brain and tumor biomechanics, biomedical imaging and analysis and Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

PA3: University of Nicosia Research Foundation

Dr Kyriacos Felekakis is an Associate Professor in the Department of Life and Health Sciences of the University of Nicosia. He is currently the Head of Department and the Histopathology Lead in the University of Nicosia Medical School. Dr Felekakis obtained his PhD degree from Boston University School of Medicine in 2004 in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Since 2011, he is a TRF in the Department of Life and Health Sciences and the Medical School of the University. He holds an honorary appointment by St George's University of London Medical School. He is a member of various professional societies and in 2016 he was elected member of the Governing Board of the Cyprus Society of Human Genetics (CSHG). In 2015, Dr Felekakis was appointed a member of the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee by the Council of Ministers. His research interests revolve around the study of microRNAs and their role in the pathogenesis of human disease as well as their contribution in gene expression regulation. He coordinated various projects dealing with the contribution of miRNAs in the progression of kidney disease and specifically in Polycystic Kidney Disease and CHFR5 nephropathy. Another area of interest is the interaction of miRNAs with various genomic elements during evolution and the implications in gene expression regulation. This line of work was coordinated by Dr Felekakis and was performed in collaboration with the University of Heidelberg. Finally, he is coordinating and participating in research projects studying the role of miRNAs as biomarkers in urine and blood for various diseases such as colon cancer, leukemia and others. Dr Felekakis has close collaboration with several research institutions in Cyprus, Greece, Europe and USA. His work has been published in various International Journals and books.

Dr Myrtani Pieri holds a PhD on Human Physiology from the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (DPAG), University of Oxford, UK. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Nicosia with a strong research interest in genetics and human physiology and a publication record with an h-index of 10. Dr Pieri, has a 10-year experience and publication record in genetics research using patients studying the link between the individual patient genotype and phenotype having published 3 papers specifically on genotype-phenotype correlations. Dr Pieri has ample experience using all genetic screening techniques including

DNA extraction, RLFP screening and Sanger sequencing needed for WP6 of the APSIRE grant. On September 2016 Dr Pieri completed an Erasmus-awarded training at the Max Plank Center for Neurolinguistics, Nijmegen, Holland to be trained specifically in the Genetics of Human Language pathologies. Dr Pieri has supervised 14 undergraduate students and has co-supervised 2 PhD students. Dr Pieri is an elected member of the Cyprus Bioethics Evaluation Committee on Biomedical research as well as a Board Member of the Intensive Care Forum (ICF). In 2016 Dr. Pieri secured funding either as PI or collaborator totalling 84K euros.

PA4: Ministry of Health

Mr Christodoulos Kaisis, M.D. is acting director of the Medical and Public Health Services (MPHS) Department of the Ministry of Health and will be the ministry officer responsible for attending to meetings and briefing about the results of ASPIRE and the implications of these results for health policy with regards to Aphasia rehabilitation in Cyprus.

PA5: SciCo Cyprus

Dr Theo Anagnostopoulos is a science communicator and a social entrepreneur. He holds a PhD in Medical Genetics from Kings College London and his Post-Doctoral Research work was in hereditary cancer. He is the Co-Founder and General Manager of SciCo and SciCo Cyprus. Theodore has led a number of corporate social responsibility campaigns such as the award winning “Ygeia En Gnosei”, “Healthy Kids” and “Through Earth’s eyes” for various organizations and corporations. Among others, he has co-founded and developed the Athens and the Thessaloniki Science Festivals and School Lab, now expanding in Ireland. He has co-organised the “Impact Series”, the first workshops on social entrepreneurship via science and technology in Greece and he is also the curator and founder of TEDMED Live Athens and Health Forward. In 2011 he was nominated by UNESCO Greece for the Kalinga Science Popularisator Prize and in 2012 he trained with Al Gore to become one of Climate Reality Project Ambassadors. Since 2011 he is the TEDxAthens host presenter and since 2013 he is the President of the Onassis Foundation Scholar’s Association. Theo has travelled to over 70 countries and in his spare time composes music in piano.

PA6: Cyprus Stroke Association (CSA)

Mrs Marina Charalambous is a licenced Speech and Language Therapist. She is the co-founder and President of the Cyprus Stroke Association and responsible for carrying out CSA’s activities in ASPIRE.