

# NEWBORN GENOMIC SCREENING (gNBS):

A public health necessity in the 21st century



Ώρα: 14:00-21:00

Αμφιθέατρο  
Ελληνοαμερικανικής Ένωσης  
(Μασσαλίας 22, Αθήνα)

**19** ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ  
2026

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## Newborn Genomic Screening (gNBS)

*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.*

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### 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 Xeferis, EuroGenetica, Thessaloniki

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Organization: First Steps & Beginnings - Newborn Sequencing Initiative  
Venue: Hellenic American Union Amphitheater (22 Massalias St., Athens)  
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 14.00-21.00  
Language: English is the official language of the conference



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14:00-14:45 **Registration**

14:45-15:00 **Welcome and Introduction**

*Petros Tsipouras*

15:00-16:30 **Session I: Precision Medicine**

*Chairs: Paul R. Billings, Dimitrios Thanos*

15:00-15:15 **Building Greece's Genomic Future: From Newborn Screening to Precision Medicine for all**  
*Dimitris Thanos*

15:15-15:30 **Setting the Stage for gNBS with public health ethics**  
*Bartha Maria Knoppers*

15:30-16:30 **Panel: Newborn genomic screening as a gateway to life-long precision medicine.**

*Moderator: Paul R. Billings*

*Panelists: David Bick\*, Ali Gharavi\*, Manolis Papasavas, Martin Reese, Kyriakos Souliotis*

16:30-17:30 **Session II: Data Governance**

*Chairs: Silvia Salardi, Takis Vidalis*

16:30-16:40 **Ethical principles for data governance**

*Silvia Salardi*

16:40-16:50 **Emerging EU data governance**

*Fruzsina Molnar-Gabor*

16:50-17:30 **Panel: Data governance**

*Moderator: Takis Vidalis*

*Panelists: David Bick\*, Eftychia Oikonomou, Fruzsina Molnar-Gabor, Silvia Salardi*

17:30-18:00 **Coffee Break**

18:00-18:30 **Official Opening**

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## 18:30-19:30 **Session III: Innovation**

*Chairs: Maria Chatzou, Mimi Lee*

### 18:30-18:40 **Breaking borders in Biomedical Research: How Data Federation is accelerating cures**

*Maria Chatzou*

### 18:40-19:30 **Panel: How innovation can drive population screening programs**

*Moderator: Mimi Lee*

*Panelists: Maria Chatzou, Kevin Hall, John Bouros, Terry Pirovolakis\*, Winston Yan\**

## 19:30-20:50 **Session IV: Ethics and Public Health Screening Programs**

*Chairs: Metropolitan Konstantinos, Bartha Maria Knoppers*

### 19:30-19:45 **Genomic sequencing in Newborn Screening: What it is-and is Not**

*Mei Baker*

### 19:45-19:55 **Demographic changes in Greece: Are there any solutions?**

*Aristeidis Antsaklis*

### 19:55-20:50 **Panel: Ethics and Public Health Screening Programs**

*Moderator: Metropolitan Konstantinos*

*Panelists: Dimitris Athanasiou, Mei Baker, Bartha Maria Knoppers*

## 20:50-21:00 **Concluding Remarks**

*Petros Tsipouras*

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## **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*



**FirstSteps**<sup>®</sup>  
NEWBORN GENOME SCREENING

FirstSteps© is a project run by Beginnings - Newborn Sequencing Initiative, Skoufa 64, Athens, 10680 Greece