



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.

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 Xefteris, EuroGenetica, Thessaloniki

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 date 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®

NEWBORN GENOME SCREENING

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