

Maria obtained her BSc degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics, from Democritus University of Thrace. During her studies, she did an internship at Pierre and Marie Curie University, in Paris, in the inflammasome and antioxidant gene expression in atherosclerotic rabbit models. After her graduation, she pursued a MSc degree on Immunology and Immunotherapy from University of Birmingham. She continued her post-graduate studies in Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, in the Institute for Cardiovascular disease Prevention. There, she investigated the role of ACKR3 on bone marrow homeostasis. During her doctorate studies she worked primarily *in vivo* and she got extensive experience on flow cytometry and imaging. She obtained a PhD degree and moved to industry, working as a scientist in the CRO department of Charles River Laboratories, in Leiden. She joined Prof. Kollias' lab in 2022 as a post-doctorate researcher, where she is working on the mechanisms driving Inflammatory Bowel Disease.