



## **Dr Christiana Neophytou**

*Post Doc University of Cyprus*

Dr Christiana Neophytou obtained a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Athens in 2008 and an M.Sc. in Experimental Molecular Biology from the University of Cyprus in 2009. During her undergraduate degree, she investigated the molecular mechanisms induced by environmental chemicals thought to be responsible for carcinogenesis in breast and lung epithelial cells. As part of her M.Sc. degree, she investigated the ability of several natural and synthetic compounds to induce apoptosis in prostate cancer cells, in a collaborative project with Yasoo Health Inc. She obtained her PhD investigating the "Anti-cancer effects of a novel Vitamin E synthetic derivative in breast cancer" from the University of Cyprus in 2014 where she continues working as a postdoctoral research scientist.

Her major research focus during her work in Dr. Andreas Constantinou's lab at the UCY was to better understand some of the key molecular events that contribute to tumorigenesis and malignant progression, as well as the anti-cancer mechanism of action of novel therapeutic agents in breast and leukemic cancers. In addition, she participated in the FP7 program "GRANATUM" that aimed to identify natural plant-based compounds (using *in silico* high-throughput screening) that favorably interact with Estrogen Receptor alpha (ER $\alpha$ ) and Estrogen Receptor beta (ER $\beta$ ). Currently she is involved in the Horizon2020 funded "European Human Biomonitoring Initiative" that aims to understand human exposure to chemicals and resulting health impacts. Furthermore, Dr Neophytou collaborates with Dr. Panos Papageorgis, Assistant Professor at the European University. Their research work involves the discovery of critical mediators of breast cancer metastasis which could also represent feasible targets for therapy. They discovered that IL13R $\alpha$ 2, a high-affinity receptor for binding and internalization of IL-13, is a potent driver of breast cancer metastasis.

During her graduate school career, she received several awards and had the opportunity to present her work in internationally recognized conferences, such as the American Association for Cancer Research. She has also acquired considerable teaching experience, by serving as a teaching assistant for three undergraduate courses including the Laboratory Methods and Techniques course, the Molecular Oncology course and the Biochemistry course, as well as by training and supervising several undergraduate, master's and PhD students. She has published 5 original, 3 review, 2 conference peer-reviewed papers and a book chapter.