



## **Professor Dr Georgios M. Hadjigeorgiou**

*Professor of Neurology School of Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece*

Professor Georgios M. Hadjigeorgiou was born in 1963 in Nicosia Cyprus. He graduated from the School of Medicine (MD), National & Kapodistrian University of Athens in 1989 from where he also got his Doctoral degree in the year 1998. His postdoctoral training included post-doctoral research fellowships in the University of Milano, and the Columbia University, NY in the field of genetics of metabolic myopathies and mitochondrial encephalomyopathies. After his return in Greece in 2000, he contributed significantly to the establishment of the Laboratory of Neurogenetics, Bioscience Unit, University of Thessaly and basically he was the Greek pioneer in genetic epidemiological studies (mainly in the field of genetic association studies) in neurological diseases. His research activity includes more than 130 PubMed publications and this activity has been recognized in more than 2500 citations. Prof. Hadjigeorgiou has extensive both clinical and research experience and currently he is collaborating with almost all Medical Departments in Greece as well as with leading research centers and study groups abroad; such as NIH / NIA, Columbia NY, Max-Planck Institute Munich, GEO-PD, EURLSSG. He granted financial support for his innovative work/research and for his participation in various research programs including FP7; Greek General Secretariat for research and Technology; Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation; Alzheimer Association USA; PD Foundation, USA. From 2008 to 2012 he was the Director at the Sector of Neurology & Sense Organs, University of Thessaly, Greece. He granted positions such as a member of Genetic Epidemiology for Parkinson's Disease Consortium (GEO-PD), member in Large of the EURLSSG Executive Committee, head of Laboratory of Neurogenetics, CERTH/CERETETH, Larissa, Greece and member of ECTRIMS. From 2012 till now he is a Professor of Neurology School of Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece where he serves as a Director of the Department of Neurology. Some of his major scientific achievements include: his work on the first genetic defect of Greek patients with mitochondrial encephalomyopathies and metabolic myopathies; isolation, for the first time at European level, of the gene encoding the debranching enzyme and then identification of 3 novel point mutations in patients with Cori disease; establishment: an active ongoing research project (one of few worldwide) for restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) in uremic patients. Prof. Hadjigeorgiou research team was able to present the first non-pharmacological treatment for RLS in uremic patients; first genetic association studies for Greek patients with neurological diseases and currently he is considered as the Greek leader in the field. Moreover, he performed the first population-based epidemiological study in Greece for neurodegenerative diseases- ongoing; and participated in the study published in JAMA 2006, where  $\alpha$ -synuclein promoter region was identified as a susceptibility region for Parkinson's disease. Additionally his research team identified the SCARB2 gene as the possible susceptibility gene for Parkinson's disease and performed the first online network meta-analysis system for randomized clinical trials in MS and the first replication study for Greek MS patients using published data from GWAS.