



Professor Anastasis Stephanou was born in 1962 in London UK. He gained his BSc on Applied Biology in 1985 at the University of East London and a MSc (Molecular Biology) in 1988 at Birkbeck College London. He then completed his PhD at the Westminster and Charing Cross Medical School, University of London in 1992. He then did his Post-doctoral training (1992-1995) in the Department of Endocrinology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, USA, working on transcriptional gene regulation. In 1995, he returned to London as a postdoctoral fellow to the laboratory led by Professor David Latchman at the Windeyer Institute of Medical Sciences, University College London where he studied the regulation of heat shock proteins and their cytoprotective properties. During his postdoctoral work, he developed his interest in the Signal Transducers and Activators of Transcription (STATs) factors as key regulators of apoptosis. In 2002, Dr Stephanou became a Lecturer at UCL and in 2005 was promoted to an Associate Professor at University College London, in the Medical Molecular Biology Unit (Faculty of Medicine) and leads a group in the Medical Molecular Biology Unit, Faculty of Medicine. His main research interests are opposing roles of STAT1 and STAT3 in regulating processes such as apoptosis, cell cycle regulation and autophagy in disease models such as cardiac ischaemia reperfusion injury and also in cancer. He has recently edited a book entitled "JAK-STAT Pathway in Diseases" and is an author for over 100 peer-reviewed articles. He is Editor-in-Chief for the Journal JAK-STAT and also receiving editor for Cell Death & Diseases and a frequent reviewer for journals such as PNAS, JBC, Oncogene and Cell Death & Differentiation. Dr Stephanou has been successful in grant awards of about 2 Million English Pounds, over the last 10 years and supervised over 10 PhD students. Another major interest is in collaborating with a colleague in the Mechanical Engineering Department at UCL, who has developed a novel technique called bio-electrospraying (BES) for deposition and controlled jetting of primary neonatal cardiac myocytes, primary cardiac and endothelial cells, as well as creating a beating cardiac tissue graft and are hoping to use such protocols for transplantation and treatment of severe heart failure models. Moreover, his research activities include the following areas (with UK and International collaborators): examination of the relationship between constitutive ERK activity and STAT1 levels in leukaemia; the role of IL-17 in the ischaemic myocardium; interactions of p73 with STAT1; STAT1 and STAT3 inhibitory peptides as therapeutic agents in the isolated heart; and the role of STAT1 and STAT3 in models of stroke. He is currently a visiting Professor at the School of Medicine of the European University of Cyprus.