A R I S T O T L E U N I V E R S I T Y O F T H E S S A L O N I K I
P R E S S O F F I C E

Tel. 2310 997158 e-mail:press@auth.gr
Administration Building "K. Karatheodori", AUTh, Postal Code 541 24, Thessaloniki
@Aristoteleio @auth_university_thessaloniki @Auth_University

ANNOUNCEMENT

Aristotle University's iGEM Student Team Wins Gold Medal for an Innovative Lung Cancer Therapeutic Approach

Thessaloniki, 26/11/2026

The interdisciplinary student team of Aristotle University, "iGEM Thessaloniki," won one of the gold medals at the "iGEM Competition 2026," the global synthetic biology competition. More than 400 research teams took part in this year's event, held in Paris from 13 to 16 November 2026, competing for one of the competition's medals.

The team participated in this year's competition with the research project "AETh3R," which uses Synthetic Biology techniques to develop a targeted therapy for non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of the disease. The project designs chimeric peptide molecules for proteolysis targeting (Proteolysis Targeting Chimera – PROTAC) that simultaneously direct the targeted degradation of two key proteins in tumor development, KRAS and MDM2. This dual targeting constitutes an innovative approach in the field of precision medicine in oncology.

A Steady Presence with Significant Distinctions from 2017 to Today

It is worth noting that the team earns distinctions at every participation in the global competition: it won a gold medal in 2017, a silver medal in 2018, a gold medal in 2019, silver medals in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and a gold medal in 2025.

This year's team consists of eight undergraduate students and one postgraduate student from four Schools and one InterSchoolal Postgraduate Program of Aristotle University. The team members include, from the School of Medicine, Errikeiti-Theodora Moumka, Ilias-Evangelos Theocharous, Taxiarchis Kosmas and Anna Filindri; from the School of Biology, Margarita Papastergiou; from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dimitrios Kouknakos and Iro-Fotini Papazachou; from the

School of Agriculture, Eirini-Melita Lampropoulou; and from the InterSchoolal Postgraduate Program in Biomedical Engineering, Alexandros Vlachos.

Michail Aivaliotis, Professor in the School of Medicine at Aristotle University and Coordinator of the interdisciplinary Functional Proteomic Analysis and Systems Biology group (FunPATh, Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation (KEDEK) of Aristotle University), serves as the team's Scientific Supervisor for the sixth consecutive year. Dr. Konstantina Psatha and Dr. Stefania Maniatsi, instructors and doctoral graduates of the School of Medicine at Aristotle University, also mentored the team.

Photographs of the iGEM team are attached.

We kindly ask you to publish or broadcast this announcement and to cover the event.