



**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI  
PRESS OFFICE**

ph. (+30)2310 997158 e-mail: [press@auth.gr](mailto:press@auth.gr)  
Administration Building «K. Karatheodori» AUTH, P.C. 541 24, Thessaloniki

[@Aristoteleio](https://www.facebook.com/Aristoteleio) [@authuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/authuniversity) [@Auth\\_University](https://www.x.com/Auth_University)

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Conferment Ceremony of the School of Medicine of the Aristotle  
University**

Thessaloniki, 25 May 2026

The School of Medicine of the Aristotle University will confer the title of Honorary Doctor upon Professor of Cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine (Case Western Reserve University) and Director of the Cardiac Pacing & Tachyarrhythmia Devices Service at the Cleveland Clinic, Professor Niraj Varma.

The Conferment Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 27 May 2026, at 19:00, in the “Alexandros Papanastasiou” Ceremonial Hall of the Old Building of the Faculty of Philosophy.

**Program of the Conferment Ceremony**

Welcome address by the Rector of the Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis

Welcome address by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Vasileios Papadopoulos

Welcome address by the Chair of the School of Medicine, Professor Stefanos Triaridis  
Laudatory address for the honoree by the Director of the 3rd Department of Cardiology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor Vasileios Vasilikos  
Conferment Ceremony

Reading and presentation of the resolution and honorary title by the Chair of the School of Medicine, Professor Stefanos Triaridis

Presentation of the honorary insignia by the Chair of the School of Medicine, Professor Stefanos Triaridis

Presentation of a commemorative honorary plaque by the Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis

Response and lecture by the honoree on the topic: “The QRS Complex of Left Bundle Branch Block – Should It Be Calibrated by Sex and Race to Guide Therapies?”

### **Brief Biography of the Honoree**

Professor Niraj Varma is an internationally recognized cardiologist and electrophysiologist with leading research, clinical, and educational contributions in the fields of arrhythmias, heart failure, and implantable cardiac device technology.

He earned his initial degrees in Medicine and Physiology from the University of Oxford. He completed his undergraduate medical education at the University of Edinburgh and specialized in Pulmonology–Critical Care Medicine and Cardiology at Papworth, Addenbrooke’s, and St. Bartholomew’s hospitals in the United Kingdom. From 1992 to 1996, he continued his postgraduate training in Boston at Beth Israel Hospital, Harvard Medical School, where he specialized in electrophysiology.

In 2009, he completed his doctoral dissertation at the University of Oxford on the molecular and cellular physiology of ischemic diastolic dysfunction.

He has served at major academic centers in the United States, including Boston University and Loyola University Chicago, and currently holds the position of Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine (Case Western Reserve University). At the same time, he directs the Cardiac Pacing and Tachyarrhythmia Devices Service, Remote Monitoring Clinic, and ECG Laboratory at the Cleveland Clinic, one of the world’s leading cardiology centers in electrophysiology, implantable devices, and remote monitoring.

His research and clinical work are exceptionally extensive and have had a transformative impact on modern cardiology. His most important scientific contributions include:

- The pioneering development and establishment of remote monitoring for implantable cardiac devices, an area in which he became a global pioneer. He led the multicenter TRUST study, which established international standards for monitoring patients with defibrillators and pacemakers.
- His contribution to the conception and clinical validation of electrocardiographic imaging (ECGI) and to the advancement of cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT), including the development of the SyncAV algorithm, which is now used internationally.
- His leadership in advancing implantable systems for the treatment of heart failure, including the modern therapy known as Cardiac Contractility Modulation (CCM), which bridges basic science and molecular biology with everyday clinical practice, as he serves as the principal architect and lead investigator of the Integra-D study.
- His documentation of the additional benefits women receive from resynchronization therapies, an observation that led to the revision of international clinical guidelines.

- His extensive participation in the development of guidelines issued by international scientific societies, including the Heart Rhythm Society, the European Heart Rhythm Association, the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society, the International Society for Holter and Noninvasive Electrocardiology, and the European Society of Cardiology, which shape global practice in electrophysiology, remote monitoring, and cardiac resynchronization therapy.

Professor Varma's published work includes hundreds of scientific articles, numerous monographs, and book chapters. He also serves as an author and editorial board member for leading journals such as *Heart Rhythm*, *Europace*, *Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology*, and *Journal of Cardiac Failure*. In addition, he is a member or fellow of major international organizations, including the Royal College of Physicians of London, the American College of Cardiology, and the Heart Rhythm Society.

He served as President of the International Society of Holter and Non-Invasive Electrocardiology (ISHNE) and has also served as a member and vice chair of various committees of the Heart Rhythm Society and the American Heart Association. He has acted as an advisor to the Dutch Government on funding research projects related to electrophysiology and to the FDA on cybersecurity issues concerning remote monitoring devices. He is, or has been, a consultant to all companies commercially active in the field of electrophysiology.

His contribution to the education of young scientists is remarkable, with many years of teaching experience, mentorship of dozens of clinical and research fellows, and continuous participation in international educational programs at universities both within and outside the United States.

Professor Niraj Varma maintains close ties with the Greek cardiology community and has delivered multiple lectures at conferences organized by the Hellenic Society of Cardiology and other Greek cardiology scientific associations.

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***We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.***