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**NAME:** IOULIA CHRISTINA (ELINA) HOREFTI

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**POSITION TITLE:** RESEARCH STAFF SCIENTIST

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**EMPLOYER:** HELLENIC PASTEUR INSTITUTE (DIAGNOSTICS DEPARTMENT)

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**EDUCATION/TRAINING**

<b>INSTITUTION AND LOCATION</b>	<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>FIELD OF STUDY</b>
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, UK	Bachelor of Science	07/1997	CELL & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, UK	Ph.D.	04/2002	CELL BIOLOGY

**A. Personal Statement**

I received my B.Sc. (Cell & Molecular Biology) in 1997 and my Ph.D. in 2002 from the University of Essex. The same year, I joined the Diagnostics Services Department of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute. I am responsible for the development and the internal and external quality control of molecular methods for the routine diagnosis of viruses and parasites and I am highly experienced in several laboratory methods of Cell and Molecular Biology. I am a fluent speaker of English and French and an accredited user of Windows and Microsoft Office.

**B. Positions and Honors**

**2007: Supervisor of the Measles & Rubella National Reference Laboratory**, responsible for the surveillance of the Measles and Rubella viruses in Greece and the development of new techniques and methods for the confirmation of suspect cases and phylogenesis. Other activities include the communication with the European Regional Reference Laboratory in Luxembourg, World Health Organisation EODY, as well as the representation of Greece in Meetings for Measles/Rubella National Reference Laboratories from Western and Central European Countries, in the context of regional strategy for Measles and Rubella elimination.

**2008: Quality Assurance Manager(QA) for the Diagnostics Services Department of Hellenic Pasteur Institute;** the Department was accredited for the first time in 2009 by ESYD (Hellenic Accreditation Body) and, since then, it is successfully accredited every year. The role of the QA is the maintenance of quality of the methods developed in the laboratory and of the laboratory's Quality Management System as well as the improvement of quality in all laboratory aspects.

**2017: Research Staff Scientist**

**2020: Member of the SARS-CoV-2 National Reference Laboratory.** Apart for the everyday diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2, my role in the NRL comprises of the writing and revision of the Laboratory's SOPs, the laboratory surveillance, the maintenance of the NRL's internal quality controls and the assessment of the method used according to the ISO15189 requirements.

### C. Contributions to Science

My research activities in the Laboratories of Public Health is based on the study of infectious diseases. Specifically, I have studied the evaluation of molecular methods for the diagnosis of herpesviruses (HSV1&2 and the Feline Herpesvirus-1 in cats), a rare case of HHV-7 infection and the *Helicobacter pylori* and Epstein-Barr virus co-infection in Greek patients with gastric malignancies in collaboration with the Laboratory of Medical Microbiology of Hellenic Pasteur Institute. I have, also, studied the presence of HHV-8 in HIV-positive patients and contributed to the study of the Cytomegalovirus resistance to antiviral treatment in immunocompromised patients. Finally, I have contributed to the laboratory surveillance of Dengue virus cases.

From my collaboration with the Polioviruses / Enteroviruses National Reference Laboratory, I studied through phylogenetic analysis the enterovirus strains responsible for a meningitis epidemic in 2007.

The largest part of my research activities is focused on the typing of measles virus. I have studied the measles strains that caused the epidemics in 2006, 2010-2011 and 2017-2018 in Greece by conducting an extended phylogenetic analysis. Finally, I studied the rare cases of a measles and a mumps vaccine-related infections, highlighting the importance of genotyping in Public Health.

### D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

**2012:** Local Supervisor in «EUPHEM Training», an educational program under the hospices of ECDC, which is Public Health oriented.

**2013:** Member of the Greek Accreditation Body and an assessor for the accreditation of Clinical Laboratories according to ISO15189.

**2016:** Member of the “One Health” Organization Committee of Hellenic Pasteur institute and liaison with HPI’s collaborators in Chatham House, UK.

**Since 2016:** Visiting lecturer in the Postgraduate Studies Program «General Principles in Molecular Methodology», School of Medicine, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

**Since 2020:** Visiting lecturer in the Postgraduate Studies Program «Central Nervous System and Respiratory Infections», University of West Attica.

**Since 2020:** Visiting lecturer in the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Studies Program «Applications of Biology in Medicine», School of Biology, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

## REFERENCES :

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