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Paraskevi (Evi) Giannakakou, PhD is a tenured Professor of Pharmacology in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. Her research is focused on a deeper understanding of cancer biology in order to develop better, personalized treatment for cancer patients. Her strong focus on translating basic science discoveries into clinical gains, is realized through her multiple collaborations across disciplines, including clinicians, and innovators in biomedical engineering and bioinformatics research. Her work has been presented in numerous international conferences and is published in the most prestigious biomedical journals. She has received numerous awards including the Kalapothakis award for Distinguished Female Scientist, by the Hellenic Medical Society of NY.

Dr. Giannakakou, who likes to go by Evi, studied Pharmacology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and later continued her PhD studies at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD. She was recruited at Weill Cornell in 2005, where she maintains an active research enterprise while holding important leadership positions, including Director of Research in the Hematology & Medical Oncology division, and her service as standing member in grant review committees at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Despite her busy schedule, Evi is passionate about mentoring the next generation of cancer researchers. In 2016, she developed an innovative training program for young investigators, which is one of the few NIH funded programs in molecular and translational oncology, in the country. Expanding her mentorship activities, Evi established a new program for junior faculty training, across Departments and disciplines at Weill Cornell, to train and empower early-stage faculty towards establishing independent, NIH-funded

careers. This program, called FARM (Faculty Advancement and Research Mentorship) has been hugely successful with a 67% funding success rate compared to the national average of only 19%. FARM has brought in more than 25 million in NIH funding since 2016, and has accelerated the career development of several junior faculty.

Evi is an active member of the Hellenic Bio-Medical Diaspora. She is a member of the executive board of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association (WHBA) where she served as President from 2016-2018. In this role, she contributed to establishing the “Stavros Niarchos Foundation Research Training Program in Clinical & Experimental Medicine” which provides scholarships to the best and brightest Greek Medical School graduates, to further their training in the USA. She is also been passionately involved in the WHBA International Summer School in Medical & Biosciences Research & Management, organized for seven consecutive years in her home area of Mani, Laconia.

Evi is married to Dr. Dimitris Papanicolaou, a senior executive in pharmaceutical industry, and they have two young daughters, Emma, 13 years old and Angelika, 9 years old. Evi and Dimitris are committed to the preservation of Greek language and heritage and contribute to various Greek-American organizations who share these values.