



Ioannis Sanidas, PhD



HBA-USA Election  
Board of Directors 2023-2026

**Professional profile** (Expertise, degrees, current position, previous positions)

Ioannis Sanidas is a Principal Investigator at the Center for Cancer Research at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School (HMS). Ioannis completed his graduation from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2008. He pursued post-doctoral training at Tufts Medical Center and MGH before joining the faculty of HMS as an Instructor in 2017. In February 2022, Ioannis accepted the position of Assistant Professor in Oncology at the State University of New York and Roswell Park Cancer Center. In February 2023, he returned to MGH to take on the role of Director at the Investigational Cancer Therapeutics Laboratory within the MGH Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies.

**Scientific profile** (Research interests, publication record, distinctions & awards)

Over the last eight years, my research has centered on how the retinoblastoma (RB) tumor suppressor works. Although RB is a key regulator of the cell cycle, its tumor suppressor activity is highly tissue-specific and mostly uncoupled from cell cycle regulation. In my laboratory, we have developed critical molecular tools that allow us to comprehensively and genome-wide investigate the full spectrum of RB action. This information is essential to understand how RB's pharmacological activation contributes to cancer therapy's efficacy. Through collaborative efforts with clinician-scientists, my team is dedicated to developing patient-derived models to study the mechanisms of investigational targeted therapies. Our objective is to identify new combinations of drugs that enhance the response to existing treatments and to identify specific patient subgroups that will benefit most from these interventions. My work has been published in prestigious scientific journals and has received funding from NIH.

**Priorities regarding activities that the HBA-USA should undertake**

1. Support all ongoing activities of the Hellenic Biological Association (HBA) to foster more robust networks among Greek scientists and expand mentoring programs.
2. Promote collaboration in research projects and curriculum development by forging stronger connections between HBA and associations of faculty members from Greek universities.
3. Facilitate effective communication channels between HBA and associations representing graduate and undergraduate students in Greece to enhance engagement and involvement in scientific pursuits.

**Time commitment that the candidate can take during his term as a BD member:**

Less than 4 hours/month \_\_\_\_\_  
4-10 hours/month   X    
10-20 hours/month \_\_\_\_\_  
More than 20 hours/month \_\_\_\_\_

**Highest position that the candidate would prefer to hold in the BD (more than one can be selected):**

President \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-President	_____
General Secretary	_____
Treasurer	_____
Appointed Secretary	_____
Councilor	_____
Any of the above	<u>  X  </u>

**Additional comments that the Candidate wants to make:**

Here are a few examples of how my experience in leveraging international collaborations and mentorship opportunities can contribute to the advancement of HBA programs:

- **Greek Diaspora Fellowship program (2017-2019):**

I had the privilege of serving as a Greek Diaspora program fellow, sponsored by Stavros Niarchos/Fulbright Foundation/Institute of International Education (2017 – 2019). During this prestigious fellowship, I collaborated on research projects with faculty members from the Medical School of the University of Crete. Additionally, I had the opportunity to mentor graduate students in Greece, further enhancing their academic development.

- **Hosting of Faculty members at MGH/Harvard Medical School.**

Since establishing my new lab at MGH/Harvard Medical School, I have been hosting a faculty member from the Medical School University of Thessaly, Greece, for his sabbatical internship. This collaboration exemplifies our efforts to foster partnerships between academic institutions in the United States and Greece, facilitating the transfer of knowledge, experience, and technological advancements.