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## MMRI RESTRUCTURES WITH PROMOTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Director of Research, Dr. Maria Kontaridis, Reaches New Heights with Promotion to Executive Director of the MMRI*

UTICA, NY — The Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) has seen significant growth since Dr. Maria Kontaridis started in January of 2018. Under her supervision as Director of Research for the past two years, the MMRI has vastly grown, increasing their number of employees, transitioning from Masonic Medical Research Laboratory to MMRI, rebranding, and diversifying their research portfolio. “We have been repeatedly impressed and made proud by our decision to hire Dr. Kontaridis. Her ambition is inspiring, and we are excited to bear witness to the growth of the MMRI in the coming months and years under her outstanding leadership” said Alvaro Quiroga, President of the MMRI Board of Directors.

Effective on May 6, 2020, Dr. Kontaridis, Director of Research at the MMRI, was promoted to Executive Director of the Institute. Along with her promotion, Susan Bartkowiak who has been the Interim Director of Administration for the past year, was promoted to fill the permanent position of Director of Administration. Mrs. Bartkowiak will also continue her work as Grants Administrator.

The restructuring of leadership will increase the effectiveness of expansion goals for the future. As the Institute continues to branch into new areas of research, attract more scientists, and increase laboratory space, leadership is of the utmost importance in getting there. “Under this new structure, and with the hard work of our entire leadership team, the MMRI can look forward to great things. I am proud to serve on the Board of Directors and excited to be a part of this beneficial transition” said David Schneeweiss, Chairman of the MMRI Board of Directors.

“I am grateful to the Board and the entire MMRI team for trusting me with this new venture. I am excited to continue leading my team as we strive towards new heights” said Mrs. Bartkowiak.

“As Executive Director, I look forward to the bright future of MMRI, knowing we have the ability and dedication to continue our expansion of research efforts towards life changing discoveries, treatments, and, hopefully, cures” said Dr. Kontaridis.

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MMRI is dedicated to scientific research that improves the health and quality of life for all. We strive to conduct high quality research aimed at developing a deep understanding of diseases and generating innovative cures and treatments. For more information about MMRI, please visit [mmri.edu](http://mmri.edu).