

For Immediate Release:

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International Research Body Spotlights Central NY Scientist

Dr. Maria Kontaridis of MMRI has been elected a Fellow of the nonprofit International Society for Heart Research

UTICA, NY — To be recognized by one’s peers is especially important in the world of medical research, and one local scientist has been recognized in a particularly unique way in the field of heart research.

Dr. Maria Kontaridis, the Executive Director of the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) in Utica, has been elected a Fellow of the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR). The ISHR World Conference was held June 12-15 in Berlin, Germany, and it was there that Dr. Kontaridis was selected to be a part of this prestigious group of elite scientists.

Like infrequent Olympic opportunities, the chance to be made an ISHR Fellow only comes once every few years. The previous ISHR World Congress was in 2019 in Beijing, China, and the next one won’t be held until 2025 in Nara, Japan.

According to the ISHR, “Fellows were selected solely on the basis of scientific excellence, as evidenced by an established track record of publications in high-impact journals. The main criterion in assigning Fellowship status is the performance of independent research that has made a major contribution to advancing our understanding of cardiovascular biology and medicine.”

Dr. Kontaridis is recognized as a leading scientist in the field of heart and cardiovascular research and innovation, and she has published a voluminous number of high-impact articles in peer-reviewed journals. In addition to leading the MMRI, and running her own research laboratory, Dr. Kontaridis is also the Gordon K. Moe Professor and Chair of Biomedical Research and Translational Medicine at MMRI.

Founded in 1958, MMRI is a non-profit, independent research center in Utica, New York, specializing in advancing scientific understanding of cardiovascular, autoimmune, and neurodegenerative disorders. To learn more, visit the MMRI website: <https://www.mmri.edu/>

The International Society for Heart Research (ISHR) is a non-profit professional society of scientists working in the field of heart and cardiovascular research. The ISHR has held 24 World Congresses since its founding in 1968. True to its international character, the ISHR is comprised of 7 regional sections, representing Australasian, Chinese, European, Indian, Japanese, Latin American and North American members. The ISHR is also the publisher of the peer-reviewed medical journal, *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*.

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