

Maria Tsoumakidou
BSRC “Alexander Fleming”

Dr. Tsoumakidou is a respiratory specialist, group leader at BSRC Alexander Fleming, and associate professor at the Medical School of the University of Athens. Her work aims to map antigen-presenting cells in immune disorders to uncover new therapeutic targets. She is recognized for discovering a novel subset of lung fibroblasts that present cancer antigens and support lymphocyte survival. This finding challenges the long-standing view that fibroblasts are immunosuppressive.

She proposes that effective anti-tumor CD4 T cells require interactions with antigen-presenting cells within tumor tissues.

She is also developing strategies to enhance dendritic cell longevity and ex-vivo models for biomarker discovery.

Her laboratory is supported by competitive grants from the European Commission. In 2023 she was awarded a Consolidator grant from the European Research Council (ERC) to harness antigen presenting fibroblasts for cancer immunotherapy.