

BEST E-POSTER AWARD TO A METABOLOMICS STUDY IN SYSTEMS MEDICINE

The <u>e-poster</u> of the undergraduate students in the Biology Department University of Patras, Christina Vasilopoulou and Maria-Sotiria Marra, who are carrying out their diploma thesis research in the Metabolic Engineering and Systems Biology Laboratory at ICE-HT, accompanied by a 10-page essay with the following full reference:

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- "Application of Metabolomics in Systems Medicine"
- ¹ Undergraduate student, Department of Biology, University of Patras
- ² Principal Researcher FORTH/ICE-HT (Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas/Institute of Chemical Engineering Sciences)

won the "best e-poster" prize (one awarded) out of 94 e-posters at the <u>22nd</u> Scientific Conference of Greek Medical Students, held in Patras, May 13-15, 2016.

The subject of this study was to highlight the role of metabolomics in modern biomedical research and practice, through a new holistic perspective of biological systems in the context of systems biology and medicine. Apart from the theoretical background, the essay presented results from two research activities of the laboratory: (1) the analysis of tissue metabolic physiology in animal models and (2) the process quality control and validation in industrial cell culture engineering. The application of metabolomic analysis in health sciences and red biotechnology will significantly contribute to further our understanding of disease causes and progression mechanisms, and assist in the design of effective drugs and therapeutic treatments.

It is noted that only 41 undergraduate biology students compared to more than 1000 medical students participated in this conference. In this context, considering also that the judging committee comprised only professors of Medical Schools, the organizers underlined the meaning of biology students being awarded this prize. This denotes the quality of the presented work in "exploring and promoting the most recent advances and data» in biomedical research, which was set as the main evaluation criterion for the submitted e-posters.