



Press release
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Winner of the 1st PRACE Ada Lovelace Award for HPC

PRACE is proud to announce that Dr Zoe Cournia, a Computational Chemist, Investigator - Assistant Professor level at the Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens (BRFAA), Greece has been selected as the recipient of the 1st PRACE Ada Lovelace Award for HPC. The Award will be bestowed at [PRACEdays16](#), to be held 10-12 May 2016 in Prague. Dr Cournia was selected for her outstanding contributions and impact on HPC in Europe on a global level.

Dr Cournia was awarded core hours on PRACE resources as Principal Investigator for research on *Mechanistic studies of the Arp2/3 complex activation and Selective inhibition of the PI3Ka E545K mutant through MD simulations, in vitro assays and SPR experiments* in the 6th and 9th Project Access calls, she was also a collaborator on other projects in Nanotechnology and Clinical, Experimental Surgery & Translational Research.



Her research results were featured in the PRACE [Women in HPC Magazine](#) in an article entitled “Computers in the Fight Against Cancer”. This research focused on understanding the way in which mutant proteins cause the onset of cancer and opened up the possibility of designing drugs that can stop this process. Her work as a collaborator with Dr Paraskevi Gkeka on new designs in drug delivery was featured in the [PRACE Digest 2015](#). This research focused on research into nanoparticle-cell membrane interactions and is making vital contributions to advancing the field of drug delivery design in biological systems.

“Using the PRACE HPC resources and recent advances in computer-aided drug design allow us to develop drugs specifically designed for a given protein, shortening the time for development of new drugs,” says Dr Cournia. “I believe that our work is a good example of how computers help develop candidate drugs that have the potential to save millions of lives worldwide. I am honoured to receive this prestigious award and hope that this serves as inspiration to other female researchers in the field.”

Dr Cournia will participate in the final plenary panel on “How can we assess European competitiveness in the global HPC race?” at PRACEdays16. She will also be awarded a cash prize of € 1000 and trophy at an award ceremony during the conference.

About PRACE

The Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE) is an international non-profit association with its seat in Brussels. The PRACE Research Infrastructure provides a persistent world-class high performance computing service for scientists and researchers from academia and industry in Europe. The computer systems and their operations accessible through PRACE are provided by 4 PRACE members (BSC representing Spain, CINECA representing Italy, GCS representing Germany and GENCI representing France). The Implementation Phase of PRACE receives funding from the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement RI-312763 and from the



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