



American Academy of Stem Cell Physicians

## **AASCP Zoom Lecture March 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:30pm (EST)**

### **Maria Irene Kontaridis, Ph.D., “Heart Disease: From Pediatric Hypertrophy to Heart Failure”**

Dr. Maria Irene Kontaridis is the Executive Director, Gordon K. Moe Professor and Chair of Biomedical Research and Translational Medicine, and the Director of Research at the Masonic Medical Research Institute in Utica, NY. She also holds a part-time faculty appointment as an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Department of Medicine/Division of Cardiology in Boston, MA. Dr. Kontaridis received her undergraduate degrees (B.A. and B.S.) from the University of Florida in Classics and Chemistry, and subsequently, obtained her master’s degrees both in Pharmacology and in Biomedical and Biological Sciences from Yale University in 1999 and 2001, respectively. In 2002, she was awarded a Ph.D. from Yale University for work with Dr. Anton Bennett on the role of protein tyrosine phosphatases, especially SHP2, in cell growth and skeletal muscle differentiation. Dr. Kontaridis' interest in continuing to work on SHP2 phosphatase led her to accept a postdoctoral position with Dr. Benjamin Neel, at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in 2003. Her work as a postdoctoral fellow garnered extramural support from the American Heart Association and the NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00). In 2007, Dr. Kontaridis was

promoted to Instructor, and in 2008, was recruited to the Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology at BIDMC as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In 2015, she was named the Director of Basic Cardiovascular Research at BIDMC and in 2016 was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In 2018, Dr. Kontaridis took on a new role as the Director of Research at the Masonic Medical Research Institute in upstate NY, and in 2020 was promoted to Executive Director.

