



**THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS**  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

**Professor A. C. Papanicolaou**  
*Director*  
*Center for Clinical Neurosciences*

1335 Moursund Street, Suite H114 713 797 7570  
Houston, Texas 77030 713 797 7590 fax  
Andrew.C.Papanicolaou@uth.tmc.edu

**To: Profs. Yanni Pallikari**, Rector of the University of Crete ([pallikar@med.uoc.gr](mailto:pallikar@med.uoc.gr))

**Sifi Papamatheaki**, Vice Rector of Academic Affairs of the University of Crete  
([papamath@imbb.forth.gr](mailto:papamath@imbb.forth.gr))

**Gianni Mitrofanis**, Secretary of Graduate Studies of the University of Crete  
([MITROFANIS@ADMIN.UOC.GR](mailto:MITROFANIS@ADMIN.UOC.GR))

**cc: Prof. Eleni Savaki**, Director of the Graduate Program ([savaki@med.uoc.gr](mailto:savaki@med.uoc.gr))

**RE: Evaluation of the Graduate Program in the Brain and Mind Sciences**

We visited Crete from April 18<sup>th</sup> to April 20<sup>th</sup> to evaluate the Graduate Program in the Brain and Mind Sciences. This gave us the opportunity to listen to the presentations of the students enrolled in the program and discuss with them at length a number of issues relating to their studies. We also had the opportunity to discuss with the faculty members their experience resulting from changes in the curriculum that we had suggested during our previous evaluation of the program and which they had implemented.

We were all highly impressed by the world class quality of the research carried out by the students of the Program, which we believe reflects their deep understanding of neurosciences. To some extent the exceptionally high quality of their work is due to the fact that the faculty members are well respected scientists with international reputation and the fact that the program is truly comprehensive covering a wide range of sub-disciplines including Neuroanatomy, Neurophysiology, Neuropharmacology and Neuroendocrinology, Functional Brain Imaging, Neuropsychology, Developmental Psychology, Philosophy of Mind, Neural Networks, Computational Neuroscience, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

On the basis of our long experience with the prevailing conditions in major universities in Europe, the United States and Asia we can state with certainty that the Graduate Program in the Brain and Mind Sciences meets the highest standards for teaching and training graduate students in the field of Neuroscience. The students enrolled in the Program are highly motivated and compare well to those enrolled in the best neurosciences programs in Europe and the Americas. Evidently, through their dedication and systematic work the members of this graduate program, faculty and students alike, created a lively scientific community where ideas are thriving in an intellectually exciting environment.

In our opinion, the Graduate Program in the Brain and Mind Sciences continues to offer graduate level studies in Greece of extraordinary quality. It was one of the first in the world to promote an interdisciplinary approach to studies of the brain and mind, and remains one of the few that have managed to do so successfully. It integrates Basic Neurobiology with Computational Neuroscience, Artificial Intelligence, and Social/Cognitive Neuroscience, and it trains the next generation of scientists to address one of the deepest and most exciting questions ever posed: how does the brain work and how does it give rise to mind and behavior?

In view of the outstanding quality of the program we suggest that the Ministry of Education not only continue its current support for the program but may wish to consider supporting its expansion into an international one that would accept applications and train students from around the world.



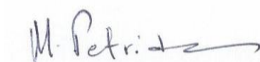
Prof. Andrew. C. Papanicolaou  
Director, Center for Clinical Neurosciences  
The University of Texas Medical School  
1333 Moursund street, Suite H 114  
Houston, TX 77030  
TEL: (713)797-7571 ; FAX: (713) 797-7590  
Andrew.C.Papanicolaou@uth.tmc.edu  
<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/clinicalneuro/>



**Helen Barbas**, Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology, Boston University, USA.



**Nikos Logothetis**, Professor of Neurosciences, Director of the Institute of Biological Cybernetics, Director of the Dept of Cognitive Physiology, Max-Planck Institute, Germany.



**Michael Petrides**, Professor of Psychology, Director of the Unit of Neuropsychology & Cognitive Neurosciences, McGill University, Canada.