

Curriculum Vitae

Michael D. Dermitzakis

Honorary- Emeritus Professor of the University of Athens

- **Education, professional experience and public service**

Michael Dermitzakis was born in Hierapetra of Crete on the 9th of April 1942. He completed his general studies in his birth town. Then, he completed his bachelor studies with high honors in the University of Athens at the Faculty of **Natural Sciences and Geography**. The academician professor M. Mitsopoulos assigned him his **PHD thesis** for the study of the Neogene deposits of Hierapetra East Crete and the geological mapping of the area. In 1969, after the recommendations of the professor P. Psarianos at the School of Physics and Mathematics, he was awarded a Ph.D. in **Geology and Paleontology** with high honors. In 1978 he supported in the *School of Science* of the University of Athens his **dozent dissertation** for «The oil sediments of Zakynthos Island» which he prepared at the University of Utrecht under the supervision of the academician prof. Cornelius Drooger, prof. J. Meulenkamp and prof. L. Benda. In the following year 1979 he was elected **Dozent of Geology and Paleontology**. He was gradually elected **associate professor** and in 1988 **professor of Geology and Paleontology** of the University of Athens.

He has give lectures in several Universities abroad such as in: Vienna, **Belgrade, Simferopol, Kiev, Palermo, Majorca, Bucharest, Iasi, Milan, Lisbon** etc.

He has elected as a **Vice-Rector** of the University of Athens (2000-2006), **Dean** of the School of Science (1996-2002), **Chairman** of the Department of Human Resources (2003-2006), **Deputy Chairman** of the Department of Geology and Geoenvironment (1991-1993), **Director** of the sector of Historic Geology and Paleontology (2006-2009), **Director** of the Museum Committee of the University of Athens (1995), **Director** of the Museum of Geology and Paleontology (1998-2009), **Founder** and **Director** of the Museum of Natural History in Vrissa, Lesbos (1999), **Founder** of the Natural and Cultural Heritage Park in Hierapetra (2009), **first Chairman** of the Steering Committee of the

Museum of Science and Technology (1996), **Founder** of the Postgraduate Course of Museum Studies (2002) and the Research Center of Museum Studies (2008) where he served as **Director** since 2009.

- **Editor of International Magazines and scientific series**

Founder and **chairman** of the Editorial Board of the scientific series "**Gaia**" and "**The Museum**". He established as a chairman the edition of the international scientific journal "**Hellenic Journal of Geosciences**". He is **chairman** or **member** of the **Editorial Board** of the following international scientific journals: 1) "**Hellenic Journal of Geosciences**", 2) "**Micropalaeontology**", 3) "**Stratigraphy**", 4) "**Geologíe én Mediterranée**", 5) "**Gaia**", 6) "**Bulletin of Hellenic Speleological Society**", 7) "**Bulletin of Hellenic Geological Society**", 8) "**Cranium**", 9) "**Cnidaria Newsletter**", 10) "**GEO-tropio**".

- **Consulting**

He has coordinated many international scientific committees and programmes. Most of those programmes were competitive and sponsored by international organizations. He has also served as coordinator, scientific director, consultant in important institutions such as: 1) **Director of the Education Research Center** (2008-2010), 2) **Founding member and member of the Council of the "Hellenic Heritage Foundation"** (1989-1993), (2008-), 3) **Vice Chairman of the board of the Public Petroleum Corporation C.A.** (1990-1993), 4) **Member of the Hellenic Advisory Council for Research**, Ministry of Research and Technology (1989-1994), 5) **Chairman of the Board of the Consulting Company for mineral research "Intermetal C.A."** (1989-1994), 6) **Vice-chairman of the Honorary Steering Committee of the 4th Hellenic Festival on Underwater Activities, Photography and Cinema** (1997), 7) **Chairman of the board of the "Hellenic Speleological Society"** (1983-1993), (2010-), 8) **Chairman of the board of the Anthropological Society** (1995-1997), 9) **Member of the "Hellenic Geological Society"** (1984-1989), 10) **President of the Committee for the Development of the Libraries of the University of Athens** (1996-2006), 11) **President of the Scientific Committee of the Museums of the University of Athens** (1995-), 12) **Member of the International Commission of**

Scientific Exploration of Mediterranean (C.I.E.S.M.) (1978-1980), 13) **Vice-chairman of the National Committee of Libraries** (2003-2008).

- **Memberships**

He is member of the: 1) European Cultural Society, 2) American Geological Society, 3) American Association of Petroleum Geologists, 4) Austrian Geological Society, 5) Serbian Geological Society, 6) European Union of Deans of Sciences, 7) Royal Dutch Geological Society, 8) International Union of Paleontologists, 9) International Council of History of Geosciences, 10) Hellenic Council of the International Geological Correlation Project (IGCP), 11) Hellenic Geographical Society, 12) the Parnassos Literary Society

- **Scientific and teaching activities**

In the frame of his **scientific** and **teaching** activities he has mainly focused on the module of **Geology and Paleontology** and he has contributed enormously in **Terminology** by publishing a **Dictionary of Geological Terms** with 42.000 entries and translated in seven languages. He has also contributed in the construction of many geological terms for the International Geological Encyclopedia. In collaboration with the late professor P. Sondaar, he formed the "**Theory of the Immigration of Island Mammals**", parts of it, with descriptions of similar cases from all the islands across the world, were recently published (2010) by publishers in New York: Wiley & Blackwell "**Evolution of Island Mammals**". This publication has world originality since it deals with the immigration, evolution and adjustment of mammals on the islands of the world.

He established in Greece the fields of **Litho-, Bio-, Chrono-, Eco-Stratigraphy, Micropaleontology** and **Oil Geology** by publishing scientific papers and books in order to give an interdisciplinary approach of the new fields.

He also contributed in the establishment of other fields of Geosciences such as: **Environmental Micropaleontology, Geological Philology, Geoarchaeology, Paleopathology, Paleoneurology, Forensic Geology, Didactic of Geosciences** etc.

- **Geological mapping and paleontological excavations**

As the natural space of Geosciences is the fieldwork, he has focused in the **Geological Mapping** and published, alone or with collaboration, **26 Geological Maps** of Greek, European and Mediterranean areas.

The geological map and the geological mapping is the quintessence of the geological study of an area, because they include a wide range of information and conclusions from all the knowledge fields of Geosciences.

He has coordinated and participated in **12 paleontological excavations**, with important findings and scientific data, in *Greece, Cyprus, Sardinia, Indonesia, France, Philippines, Libya, Sicily*, etc. The paleontological excavations are a complex task that deals with the systematic and organized collection of fossils.

- **Supervising new scientists**

He has contributed to research activities of new scientists either by participating in the advisory committees or providing information, suggestions, criticism and discussions on **36 Doctoral Theses (Ph.D.)** and **12 Master of Science dissertations (MSc)**.

- **Publications and citations**

The outcome of his laborious research activities is more than **568 publications**, either as an individual either with collaboration, that are distributed as follows: **303 original scientific papers, 24 monographs, 36 scientific manuals and books, 138 conference announcements, 67 popularized articles**. International publishers have published his books in **english, spanish, russian, dutch, italian, armenian**.

The wide recognition of his scientific work is also reflected on hundreds of science citations from his books and articles. Specifically, until the end of year 2009 have been compiled: 1) **1600+1000 citations** from scientific papers, 2) **175 citations** from monographs, 3) **100 citations** from educational books, 4) **137 citations** from conference announcements, 5) **100 citations** from articles.

- **Participation in congresses and international meetings**

The outcomes of his scientific research and activities have been systematically presented in more than 200 national and international conferences and in many cases (36) he has been invited by the organizing committees as a visitor speaker.

- **Academic Awards**

His teaching and research work and also his contribution in science in general and in society, have been recognized in Greece and abroad with the following awards:

- 1) **Honorary Professor** and **Emeritus Professor** by the Senate of the University of Athens (2009, 2010).
- 2) **Foreign Fellow** by the Academy of Science of Moscow (2007).
- 3) **Honorary Professor** (Professor Honoris Causa) by the Universities of **Bucharest** (Romania 2002), **Tavrid** (Crimea 2003), **Montevideo** (Uruguay 2004).
- 4) **Honorary Doctor** (Doctor Honoris Causa) by the Universities of **Mexico** (2003), **Iasi** (Romania 2006), **Kiev** (Ukraine 2006).
- 5) **Honorary Member** of the Serbian Geological Society (1996).
- 6) **Member** of the Executive Council of "Penrose Foundation", Geological Society of America (2006).
- 7) **Honored with the Golden Cross** by the Russian Republic for his scientific achievements and his contribution in the international scientific collaboration (2005).
- 8) **Special Distinction** by the American Congress in acknowledgement of his remarkable achievements in the domains of the Coordination of International Research and the creation of Global Educational Programmes (2002).
- 9) **Metal of Honor** by the National University of Kyiv Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine (2004).
- 10) **Distinguished Member** of the Department of Geosciences of the University of **KagIiari** (2008) for his contribution in the excavations of the Corbedu cave and the collaboration between the two Universities.

11) **Medal of Honor** by the University of **Palermo** for his contribution in the international collaboration and the development of Geology (2009).

For his contribution in the development of **Geosciences** he has received **honorary distinctions** by:

- 1) The International Speleological Society (1994)
- 2) The International Society of Geological Sciences (1994).
- 3) The International Biographical Centre in Cambridge (1996).
- 4) The Society of Cretan Scientists (2003).
- 5) The Municipality of Loutraki (2004).
- 6) The Municipality of Kifisia (2002).
- 7) The Hellenic Geological Society (2008).
- 8) The Hellenic Committee of Hydrogeology (2005).
- 9) The Hellenic Speleological Society (2000).
- 10) The Hellenic Sentimentological Association (2009).
- 11) The Hellenic Society for Underwater Research (1984).
- 12) Το παράσημο του Ταξιάρχου αξίας της Ελληνικής Μεγάλης Αποστολής του Τάγματος του Αγίου Λαζάρου των Ιεροσολύμων (2014).
- 13) Απονομή του παρασήμου του Τιμίου Σταυρού του Αποστόλου των Εθνών Παύλου, ιδρυτού της Εκκλησίας της Κρήτης και του Αποστόλου Τίτου, πρώτου Επισκόπου Κρήτης, από την Ιερά Σύνοδο της Εκκλησίας της Κρήτης (Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο Κωνσταντινουπόλεως) (2015).
- 14) *Eugene Dubois*
- 15) The Hellenic Federation for Underwater Activity and Fishing Sports (1987).
- 16) The Hellenic Authors Society (1996).
- 17) The Hellenic Philotelic Society (1996).

He has been also honored with the name of the new species **Sphaerocalyptra dermitzakii** (Triantaphyllou, Dimiza & Theodoridis sp.nov.), for his extensive and multidisciplinary contributions to paleontology and micropaleontology in Greece and internationally (2005).

- **Social contribution**

He has given numerous popularized lectures that discuss issues of geology, environmental protection of geotopes, geological and cultural monuments (caves, gorges, fossil deposit areas etc) in the **Hellenic Open Universities** of Volos, in Mytilene, Plomari, Chios, Herakleion, Rethymno, Kalamata, Sitia, Ag. Nikolao, Corfu, Rhodes, Kythira, Nafplio, Zakynthos, Lefkada, Mesologi, Ioannina, Chania, Hierapetra, Kavala, Argos, Alexandroupoli, Syros, Melos, Santorini, Bianno, Kritsa, Aegina, Porto-Cheli, Chalkida, Lamia, Pafo, Egomi, Juvenile Prisons of Korydallos, Educational Association, Society of Friends of People etc.

He has also given lectures to teachers of elementary and secondary schools in many regions of Greece about the **didactics of Geosciences** and the protection of the environment.

He organized a **Blood Bank** at the University of Athens for voluntary blood donations. He also founded student and staff health clinics and he is in charge of the gym and the swimming pool facilities made for the University staff.

He has been a member of the restoration committee of the Metropolitan Church of St. George in Hierapetra, the Church of Presentation of the Virgin at the top of mount Afentis in Lasithi. He has also contributed in the reconstruction of the University's Church of Kapnikarea and the construction of the University's Church of Three Hierarchs in the Campus.

He has offered consultant work for **geoarchaeological issues** in archaeological sites and excavations such as in Epidaurus, Corfu, Pylos, Vasiliki, Zakro, Lesvos, Kos, Zakynthos, Knossos, Cape of Cyprus etc.

- **Books published abroad**

In 2005 the international publisher "**Tauria-Simferopolis**" from the Human Research Center of Crimea in Simferopolis Tavrid, published **in Russian** his book "В поисках наших предков" (Looking for our Ancestors). This edition is a translation from the Greek book of Mavrommatis editions (1998) and discusses the origin of the human being and focuses on a different approach that lines up all the exciting data concerning the revolution of the main hominid groups, their different characteristics and their similarities.

Furthermore, the book focuses not only on the description but also on the interpretation of the complex issue of human evolution. The originality of the book lies on the fact that it provides basic information for the beginning of the geological time and the techniques of dating, the evolutionary and racial principles and the basic anatomy.

In 2005 the publisher "**Ion Publications**" published in three languages (**english, greek, italian**) the book "**Coccolithophores of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. A look into the Marine Microworld**". Its originality lies in the fact that it is published internationally and presents in three different languages the systematic classification of Coccolithophores and presents in an understandable way the descriptions of genders and species. The representation of the marine microcosm of the Mediterranean Coccolithophores and the fine phytoplaktonic micro-organisms are presented with scientific completeness.

In 2009 were published in **russian** two children books entitled "**The story of a little mammoth**" and "**Akim and King Tapir**". The first book presents, through narration, the evolution of the mammoth throughout the geological time, the habitat they lived in and the factors that affected the environmental change the mammoth's extinction. The second book talks about the evolutionary processes of the climate and the environment in connection with the geological time, the way human affects on the environment, the climate changes and the biodiversity in a simple and entertaining way understandable by children. These books are also about to be pressed in **greek, spanish and armenian**.

The international publisher "**Mondadori**" is about to publish the book "**Approccio Geologico all' Esamerone di San Basilio Magno**". This italian edition, which is in the phase of evaluation by an international evaluation committee, is based on the greek edition and focuses on the ideas of St. Basil the Great for the Creation of the World in connection with the modern data of Geosciences. This book is also in press in **russian** by the publisher "**ΙΧΤΥΟΣ**" of the Patriarchate of Moscow.

In 2009 the international publisher "**Diemen, Naturewetenschap & Techniek van Veen Magazines**" in Leiden, Netherlands, published on the occasion of the anniversary for the 200 years since the birth of Charles

Darwin, the book "**Hoe Dieren op Eilanden Evolueren**" (**How the island animals evolve**). The main target of the book is to describe the animals of today and the fossilized animals of the islands and also to describe their common tendency in evolution such as: Nanism, Gigantism, Slow-moving, Tooth Loss, Radial Evolution. The book is also in press in greek by the publisher "Parisianou".

In 2010 the publishers "**Willey & Blackwell**" published the book "**Evolution of Island Mammals. Adaptation and Extinction of placental Mammals on Islands**".