



CELEBRATE PURDUE WOMEN

OURANIA ANDRISANI

WHAT ROLE HAS COLLABORATION PLAYED IN YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY?

Collaboration is a powerful professional relationship to amplify and extend one's capability and expertise. I have been very fortunate to have collaborated with truly amazing scientists from Purdue and the international arena, who have enabled my work to advance in a multi-dimensional mode.

WHAT ROLE HAS CONNECTION WITH OTHERS PLAYED IN YOUR JOURNEY?

I am thankful to have met and connected with a senior female scientist from the Pasteur Institute in France, who supported my efforts, recognized my strengths, and enhanced my international networking, enabling me to excel.

HOW HAS YOUR DEFINITION OF SUCCESS EVOLVED OVER TIME?

By the impact of my work and efforts on the people I mentored, and the effect of my work and leadership in the success of others.

WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

The responsibility, vision, strategy, and standards (honesty, transparency, fairness, understanding, etc.) directed toward the success of others.

HOW HAS YOUR DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP EVOLVED OVER TIME?

Thinking ahead, and designing clear, realistic, timely, creative action plans; aiming for excellence; motivating others to contribute their best; modeling professional behavior to my trainees and colleagues; selecting and promoting others for advancement and leadership.

WHAT ROLE HAS COMMUNITY PLAYED IN YOUR SUCCESS?

I joined the College of Veterinary Medicine as an assistant professor in 1991. I was a non-DVM, basic scientist (molecular biologist), the only woman faculty member in my department, the first woman, non-DVM to become full professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine in 2000, and the first woman, non-DVM to be named distinguished professor in 2020. The clinical focus of the community of the College of Veterinary Medicine was unfamiliar with the challenges facing a junior, basic scientist, female faculty member.

Dr. Ourania Andrisani is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences at Purdue University, and a recognized expert on the molecular biology of hepatitis B virus (HBV), a leading cause of liver cancer. Worldwide, 280 million people are chronic HBV carriers at risk of developing liver cancer. The goal of her research is to identify essential mechanisms that can be targeted to suppress HBV infection and HBV-related liver cancer. She serves as program leader for the Purdue Institute of Cancer Research, has served as co-organizer of the International Meeting of Hepatitis B viruses (2020/21), and a National Cancer Institute workshop on RNA helicases. Dr. Andrisani has been actively involved in graduate education and post-doctoral training. She has obtained major federal funding in support of her research for more than 25 years, has served as permanent member of study sections at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and continues to serve as reviewer for NIH, international funding agencies, and high impact journals.