

The Faculty of Educational Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the Department of Special Educational Needs cordially invite you to a lecture followed by discussion (held in English):

Dr Marianthi Papadimitriou

Learning at the Point of Care: Education Inside the Hospital Walls

Date: 3 February 2026, 11:30–14:00

Venue: Szamarzewskiego 89, Building D, Room 508

Programme:

11:30–11:35 – Opening remarks

Prof. Waldemar Segiet, Dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies

11:35–11:45 – Introductory remarks

Prof. Jacek Pyżalski, Organiser, Department of Special Educational Needs

11:45–13:15 – Lecture

Learning at the Point of Care: Education Inside the Hospital Walls

Dr Marianthi Papadimitriou

13:15–14:00 – Questions and discussion

Dr Papadimitriou is a UK-qualified Child, Adolescent and Educational Psychologist specialising in work with children and young people with medical and mental health needs. She has over 25 years of diverse professional experience as a special educational needs teacher, hospital teacher, teacher trainer, coordinator of hospital education, and child and educational psychologist in both the UK and Greece. She has been an elected committee member of the Hospital Organisation of Paedagogues in Europe (H.O.P.E.) for over 15 years and has been actively involved with H.O.P.E. since 2006. Dr Papadimitriou has contributed to several national and international policy and practice initiatives and has been an invited speaker at numerous international conferences, including the first Intergovernmental UNESCO World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), which led to the Tashkent Declaration, a global framework affirming governments' commitment to equitable, inclusive, and high-quality early childhood care and education. She currently leads H.O.P.E.'s Working Group on Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and Support, dedicated to the training and support of professionals working in paediatric hospitals, schools and clinical settings. Her work focuses particularly on advancing professional practice and understanding in the areas of child psychology, care and support of children with chronic and/or life-limiting conditions and complex mental health challenges.

Learning at the Point of Care: Education Inside the Hospital Walls

Hospital education seems to play a fundamental role in improving a child's hospital experience and supporting the recovery process. It offers the child and the family a link to the outside world, a sense of normalcy and continuity in life, an opportunity for social interaction and engagement with academic work and a sense of personal accomplishment and achievement.

Despite its importance, hospital education seems to be a largely marginalised and unknown sector to the world with health professionals, mainstream teachers and parents often presented unaware of the existence and functions of the hospital schools or the role of the hospital teachers. This limited awareness is compounded by a lack of substantial research across different national contexts, contributing to ongoing uncertainty regarding the contribution of hospital education to children's recovery and wellbeing.

Drawing on illustrative case studies and research data this lecture examines key challenges in supporting children with medical and mental health needs across diverse healthcare and education systems. It highlights the importance of a holistic, integrated, and child-centred approach to hospital education and paediatric care, emphasising the need for stronger collaboration and shared understanding at both national and international levels.