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Dr. Kounalakis is an Assistant Professor in Evelpidon Military University, Athens, Greece, teaching Exercise Physiology, and Exercise Physiology and Performance in Extreme Environments. From 2007 to 2009 Dr Kounalakis was a Research Associate in Jozef Stefan Institute, Slovenia. In the year 2002, he was appointed as a Research Collaborator at the Lecturer level (P.D. 407/80) in the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Science at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. He has a BSc in Sports Science (1996) and MSc (2001) and PhD (2006) in Exercise Physiology from the Department of Sports Medicine and Biology of Exercise, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Science of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

His research interests focus on the regulation of the cardiovascular, respiratory and thermoregulatory system during exercise in normal and extreme conditions, such as hypoxia and deconditioning.

Dr Kounalakis was the principal investigator in many projects funded by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia, NATO and the European Space Agency (ESA). Namely, he was a member of the following research programs: a) "Knowledge for security and peace" funded by NATO, b) "Simulation of Lunar Habitat" (funded by the Slovenian Research Agency –ARRS and ESA), c) "Hypoxic and Hyperoxic Exercise" by the Slovenian Research Agency –ARRS.

He has 1 book chapter, more than 50 publications in scientific journals; more than 80 refereed oral and poster presentations in international conferences and 8 refereed abstract publications in international journals. He presents more than 500 citations with an h-index = 14. He was a member of the commission board of 3 PhD and 3 MSc theses. He is also supervised more than 20 undergraduate theses.

He is reviewer in some of the highest ranked journals in the area of exercise physiology and sports (Journal of Applied Physiology, European Journal of Applied Physiology, Journal of Sports Sciences, European Journal of Clinical Investigation etc.). He was also a leading organizer and a co-editor of the book of abstracts of the 12th and 14th International Conference of Environmental Ergonomics. Dr Kounalakis is member of the European College of Sports Sciences (ECSS), the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the Greek Association of Sports Science and Greek trainers handball federation.