



Demetrios K. Vassilatis studied Biochemistry at N.Y.U. and obtained a PhD from Columbia University. Concurrently he was a Visiting Scientist at Merck Research Labs. As a graduate student he deciphered the mode of action of the drug avermectin, an antiparasitic the discoverers of which were awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize. Subsequently, he was an Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine where he started working on Parkinson's disease. He was also a founder of the biotechnology company Primal Inc. (now part of Omeros Corporation) specializing in drug target identification. At BRFAA he continues his work on Parkinson's disease.