

*Andreas Dracopoulos*  
*The New York Stem Cell Foundation*  
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*Paul Goldberger*

I first met Andreas Dracopoulos a decade ago, when I was advising The New York Public Library on the choice of an architect for a new project, and I was told that a member of the library's board wanted to meet with me to get a briefing on the project. So I went to Andreas's office, where he asked the most focused, most informed, and most serious questions of any board member. That's how I began to learn about how this remarkable man goes about his business—he gathers the most information he can, and unlike many foundation executives he is determined to get it right from the source, which is why I was summoned to his office. He wants, more than anything else, to be informed.

But once properly informed, what is truly remarkable is what he, and the organization he has built, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, do with that information. In a short time they have had an extraordinary impact on philanthropy, in New York and around the world. Andreas Dracopoulos is more than well informed; he has been imaginative and fearless in his philanthropy. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation took a chance on The New York Stem Cell Foundation when it was a new organization, with a bold idea but a short track record; when the track record got longer, the support became even greater, and now NYSCF is proud to have the Stavros Niarchos Foundation name on the Gallery adjacent to its new laboratory on West 54<sup>th</sup> Street.

The boldness of Andreas Dracopoulos extends far beyond his support of new organizations like The New York Stem Cell Foundation; the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has been a great supporter of culture as well as science, and underwrote the entire cost of planning and constructing the new Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens, an

ambitious project by the architect Renzo Piano, for which Andreas was the model of an active, engaged client. He oversaw every aspect of this \$861-million project—slightly larger than the budget for the new NYSCF lab you just heard about!—protecting it under the most challenging circumstances during Greece’s period of great political turmoil. The result is one of the important buildings of our time.

In gratitude for his support, but also in appreciation of his imaginative and courageous leadership in philanthropy, The New York Stem Cell Foundation is pleased to honor Andreas Dracopoulos as a 2017 Stem Cell Hero. May we invite him to the stage to receive the NYSCF Humanitarian Award.