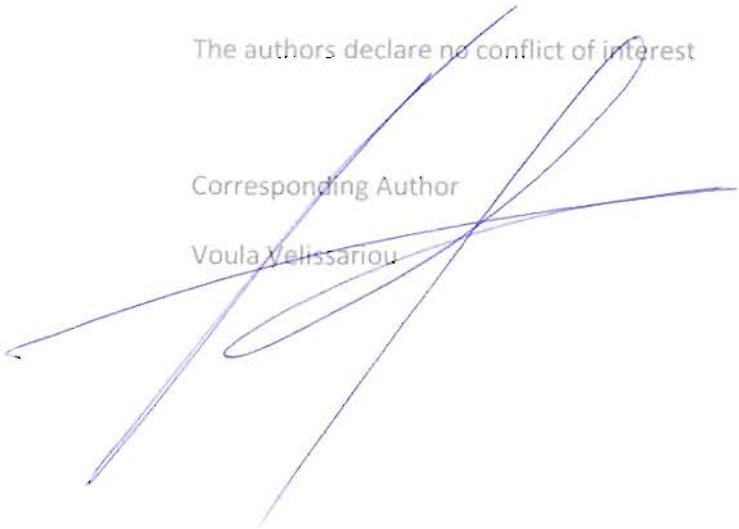


Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest

Corresponding Author

Voula Velissariou

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, is written over the text of the conflict of interest statement and the corresponding author's name.

## Conflict of interest statement

Eliza A Papageorgiou is currently employed by, and own shares of NIPD Genetics. Philippos C Patsalis also owns shares of NIPD Genetics.

Eliza A Papageorgiou and Philippos C Patsalis have filed a PCT patent application for the MeDIP real time qPCR based NIPD approach (PCT Patent Application No.PCT/1B2011/000217). Voula Velissariou and Georgia Christopoulou declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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