



Dr. Triantafyllos "Fyllis" Tafas is originally from Greece and received his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Athens in 1991. He took a teaching position at the University of Athens, teaching courses in Biology and introducing the use of Computers in the study of Biology. In connection with his academic endeavors, he developed an interest in artificial intelligence and automating microscopy. In the 1990's, he began traveling between Greece and the United States seeking to raise venture capital for the development of diagnostic products using robotic microscopy. During that time, Tafas also served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Connecticut.

In 1999, along with two colleagues, Dr. Tafas started Ikonisys, Inc. ("Ikonisys"), which is headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut. In 2000, Dr. Tafas moved from Greece to the United States, full-time, in an effort to expand the business of Ikonisys and is Chief Technology Officer, overseeing its product development and directing all patent prosecution efforts on its products. He lead the artificial intelligence, software and hardware design of the Ikoniscope® robotic microscopy platform, as well as the design of novel cytogenetic and cyto-pathology diagnostic products, including proprietary reagent kits.

Dr. Tafas filed his challenge to the USPTO's claims and continuations rules the day after the rules were announced because he feared that the rules would substantially circumscribe the existing protections afforded by Congress, to patent applicants, with resulting loss of value to patent estates. He was greatly concerned that the rules would impose a chilling effect on the ability of small companies, research-intensive companies, and independent inventors, to successfully file and/or prosecute their pending applications.