

Nektarios Tavernarakis, Chairman, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Professor, Medical School, University of Crete, Chair, European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Nektarios Tavernarakis is the Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), Research Director at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB), and Professor of Molecular Systems Biology at the Medical School of the University of Crete, in Heraklion, Greece. He is the Founder and first Director of the Graduate Program on Bioinformatics at the Medical School of the University of Crete, and is also heading the Neurogenetics and Ageing laboratory of IMBB. He is an elected corresponding member of the *Academy of Athens*,



and an elected Chairman of the *European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)* Governing Board and Executive Committee, Member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the *European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)*, the *German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina)*, the *European Academy of Sciences and Arts*, and *Academia Europaea*. He has also served as an elected member and Vice President of the *Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC)*, and as the Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. He earned his Ph.D. degree at the University of Crete, and trained as a postdoctoral researcher at Rutgers University in New Jersey, USA. His work focuses on the molecular mechanisms of necrotic cell death and neurodegeneration, the interplay between cellular metabolism and ageing, the mechanisms of sensory transduction and integration by the nervous system, and the development of novel genetic tools for biomedical research. He has published numerous scientific papers in top-tier, cross-discipline, international scientific journals, in addition to invited book chapters, and other publications, including editorials, commentaries, and science-popularizing articles. His research has been commended internationally, and is supported by highly competitive funding from the European Union, international organizations and the Greek Government. For his scientific accomplishments, he has received several notable scientific prizes, including two *ERC Advanced Investigator Grants*, and an innovation-supporting *ERC Proof of Concept Grant*. He is one of the first in Europe, and the first in Greece, to have been awarded this highly competitive and prestigious grant twice. He is also the recipient of the *EMBO Young Investigator* award, the *Alexander von Humboldt Foundation*, *Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel* research award, the *Bodossaki Foundation Scientific Prize for Medicine and Biology*, the *Empeirikeion Foundation Academic Excellence Prize*, the *BioMedical Research Award* of the *Academy of Athens*, the *Galien Scientific Research Award*, and the *Helmholtz International Fellow Award*.