# SHORT BIOGRAPHY – NEKTARIOS TAVERNARAKIS

Nektarios Tavernarakis is the Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, at the Foundation for Research and Technology, and Professor of Molecular Systems Biology at the Medical School of the University of Crete, in Heraklion, Greece. He is the 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 the Institute. He is an elected member of the *European Molecular Biology Organization* (*EMBO*) and *Academia Europaea*. 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 research 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. For his scientific accomplishments, he has received several notable scientific prizes including two *European Research Council* (*ERC*) *Advanced Investigator Grants* (in 2009 and 2016). He is one of the first in Europe, and until now the only one 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 *Research Excellence* award of the *Foundation for Research and Technology*, the *BioMedical Research Award* of the *Academy of Athens*, the *International Human Frontier in Science Program Organization* (*HFSPO*) long-term *Postdoctoral Fellowship*, and the Dr. *Frederick Valergakis* Post-Graduate Research Grant Program *Academic Achievement Award* of the Hellenic University Club of New York. For more information, please visit: http://www.elegans.gr/.

**5 Representative Publications**


- Palikaras K., Lionaki E. & Tavernarakis N. (2015) Coordination of mitophagy and mitochondrial biogenesis during ageing in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. **Nature**, 521: 525-528.
- Kourtis N., Nikoletopoulou V. & Tavernarakis N. (2012) Small heat shock proteins protect from heat stroke-associated neurodegeneration. **Nature**, 490: 213-218.
- Artal-Sanz M. & Tavernarakis N. (2009) Prohibitin couples diapause signaling to mitochondrial energy metabolism during ageing in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. **Nature**, 461: 793-797.
- Syntichaki P. Troulinaki K. & Tavernarakis N. (2007) eIF4E function in somatic cells modulates ageing in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. **Nature**, 445: 922-926.
- Syntichaki P., Xu K., Driscoll M. & Tavernarakis N. (2002) Specific aspartyl and calpain proteases are required for neurodegeneration in *C. elegans*. **Nature**, 419: 939-944.