

IMBB researcher Panayiota Poirazi elected as the Chair of the FENS-KAVLI Network of Excellence



Dr. Panayiota Poirazi, a Research Director at IMBB-FORTH is the first elected Chair of the FENS-KAVLI Network of Excellence.

THE FENS-KAVLI NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE is a prestigious network of 30-35 outstanding young European neuroscientists that represent the most talented scholars among their peer group. It is supported by the Kavli Foundation and the Federation for European Neuroscience Societies (FENS). The first 20 members were selected in December 2014 and another 10-15 will be selected in July 2016.

The Network started its operation in May 2015. Its vision is to shape the future of Neuroscience in Europe and beyond by putting young researchers in the driver's seat. This will be achieved through providing opportunities for young scientists, influencing science policy, and facilitating the exchange between science and society. Since its establishment the Network has initiated a number of activities including:

- 1) Publication of a series of **opinion articles** in the European Journal of Neuroscience (EJN) regarding the major obstacles and key determinants of a successful career in Neuroscience.
- 2) Organization of **several events to take place at the FENS Forum 2016** in Copenhagen, including the inauguration of two types of awards recognizing mentorship and scientific excellence, outreach activities such as pub talks and socials, women-in-neuroscience lectures etc.
- 3) **Meetings with high-level science policy figures** such as Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation to discuss difficulties and opportunities for young scientists.

Dr. Poirazi's work focuses on understanding how dendrites contribute to information processing and memory formation in the brain via the use of theoretical and computational modeling approaches. Dr. Poirazi has received several awards for her seminal contributions in neuroscience, including the EMBO Young Investigator award in 2005, two Marie Curie fellowships (2002 and 2008), a Starting Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) in 2012 and the "Manolis Christofides" Young Cypriot Investigator award in 2014. She is a member of AcademiaNet: a European portal for outstanding women scientists and the Young Academy of Europe. In 2014 and 2015 she represented the ERC at the World Economic Forum, Annual Meeting of the New Champions as one of the top 40 Young Scientists of the world.

For more information, please visit the FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence site::
<http://www.fens.org/Outreach/FENS-Kavli-Network-of-Excellence/>

Dr. Poirazi's lab at IMBB-FORTH
www.dendrites.gr