

**September 25, 2018**

**FORTH organized a symposium to honor the memory of Fotis Kafatos.**

On 25<sup>th</sup> September IMBB-FORTH hosted the first Scientific Symposium in honour of the distinguished biologist Fotis Kafatos, who passed away almost a year ago, in November 2017. Fotis was the founding Director of the IMBB, the first Professor at the Department of Biology at the University of Crete and a highly valued colleague, mentor and advisor of IMBB, continuing his support even later on after he resigned from IMBB in 1994. At this year's symposium seven internationally renowned scientists were invited to present the latest developments in the area of microbe interaction with insect hosts, focussing on transmission of the malaria parasite by the mosquito vector. Fotis was a pioneer in this field and the progress which has been achieved, and was presented at the symposium, is to a large degree based on the initiatives that Fotis launched. More than half of the invited speakers were former close colleagues and co-workers of Fotis who now successfully continue this line of research. In addition to the local life-science community, the audience included colleagues and friends of Fotis coming from other scientific areas and from other cities and countries. At the end of the event there were many attendees who said a few words to honour Fotis Kafatos, thus keeping his memory and spirit alive also for the newer generations of scientists.