

ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT OF FORTH

Oct 31, 2016

Prof. Nektarios Tavernarakis, Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the Foundation for Research and Technology and Professor at the Medical School of the University of Crete, was unanimously elected yesterday Director of the Central Administration and President of FORTH, by a 7-member Evaluation Committee consisted of highly recognised Greek scientists, headed by Prof. Gregory Stephanopoulos (MIT).

Short Bio

Nektarios Tavernarakis has been the Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the Foundation for Research and Technology since 8-11-2013, and Professor at the Medical School of the University of Crete, in Heraklion, Greece since 10-3-2014. 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 IMBB. He is an elected member of the *Scientific Council* of the *European Research Council*, the *European Molecular Biology Organization*, 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. He has received several notable scientific prizes, including an innovation-supporting *ERC Proof of Concept Grant* and two *ERC Advanced Investigator Grants*. 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*, and the *BioMedical Research Award* of the *Academy of Athens*.

More information on the research activities of the lab is available at:

<http://www.elegans.gr/>