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## PRESS RELEASE

### **FORTH Chairman, Professor Nektarios Tavernarakis is elected Corresponding Member of the Academy of Athens**



Nektarios Tavernarakis, Research Director at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB) of the Foundation of Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), and Professor at the Medical School of the University of Crete was elected a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Athens.

Membership to the prestigious Academy is bestowed to scientists who have made seminal contributions and achievements towards promoting science, and is an important recognition of the scientific excellence and the

highly competitive research conducted at FORTH and the University of Crete.

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 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 (ERC)*, the *European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)*, the *European Academy of Sciences and Arts*, and *Academia Europaea*. He has also served 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 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 two *ERC Advanced Investigator Grants*, and an innovation-supporting *ERC Proof of Concept Grant*. 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-Hellas*, the *BioMedical Research Award of the Academy of Athens*, the *Galien Scientific Research Award*, the *Helmholtz International Fellow Award*, the *International Human Frontier in Science Program Organization (HFSP) long-term Postdoctoral Fellowship*, the *Honorary Education Business Award*, and the *Dr. Frederick Valergakis Post-Graduate Research Grant Program Academic Achievement Award of the Hellenic University Club of New York*.

**More info:**

Please visit the relevant web page of the [Academy of Athens](#)