



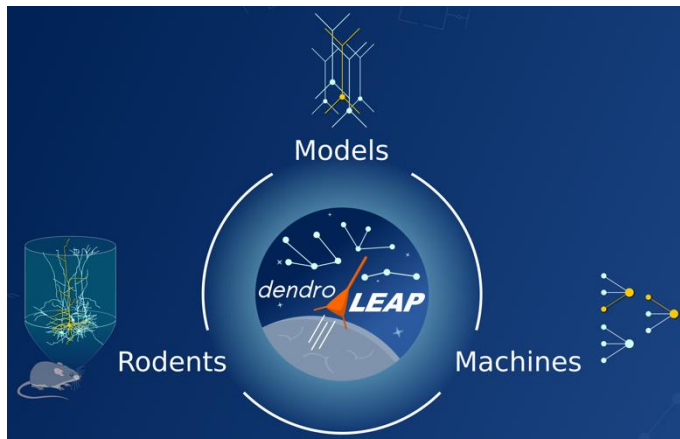
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PRESS RELEASE

Prestigious H.F.R.I. – SNF grant “Always strive for excellence – Theodoros Papazoglou” to IMBB researcher

The group of Dr. Yiota Poirazi, Director of Research at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of FORTH, was awarded a prestigious grant co-funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) and the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) under the 5th Call of “Science and Society” Action “Always strive for excellence – Theodoros Papazoglou” (Project Number: 28056).

The cooperation of H.F.R.I. and the SNF concerns the funding of research proposals which were rated A or B by the European Research Council (ERC) but were not funded due to the limited budget available. The “Science and Society” action entitled “Always strive for excellence – Theodoros Papazoglou” are dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Theodoros Papazoglou, who made a decisive contribution to its realization.



The DendroLeap project was rated A in the highly competitive 2023 call of the European Research Council for Advanced Grants. As a result, it receives 1.25 M€ for a time period of 2.5 years. The project will combine computational modelling of neuronal circuits, in vivo experiments in rodents and bio-inspired Machine Learning (ML) techniques. Its’ goal is to reveal how dendrites of biological neurons can be used to optimize learning in both biological and artificial systems.

The results are expected to have a major impact in both the Neuroscience and the Machine Learning fields. As dendrites are altered in various neurological diseases, new insights and tools can further our understanding of learning and memory deficits, opening the way for new therapies. Moreover, the new dendro-inspired artificial systems can lay the groundwork for more sustainable, explainable and open ML, which is crucial for ensuring the transparency and trustworthiness of modern AI systems.

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